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# THE TIMES

The Queen's Birthday  
Honours: List  
in full, pages 4 and 5

## Trade figures best since 1971, but retail prices soar

Best trade figures since 1971, were announced yesterday. They showed an uncurrent account surplus of £226m (Business News, page 15). But a 4.2 per cent rise in the retail price index for May was the biggest ever. It included the effects of Budget measures. The Government is not planning a crisis package this month.

## Crisis measures ruled out

are now perilously near the end of the line." Referring to the "catastrophic increase in the retail price index," Sir Geoffrey said severe action must be taken now by the Prime Minister and his Cabinet.

At present, however, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Healey see it differently, believing that they have weeks rather than days in which to win the consent of employees and employers to new and more stringent guidelines for pay, and in which to impose lower ceilings and tighter control on public spending for the next three years.

Their hands might be forced only if the pound were to come under more severe and sustained pressure than this week's flurry. The outstandingly good trade figures, which astonished the City and which put Britain's balance of payments into the black for the first time in three years, gave sterling a powerful tonic yesterday, embarrassing those who had speculated against the pound on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Even so, the pound's worth against major foreign currencies still stood 25.9 per cent below its benchmark of December, 1971; and yesterday's retail price figures for May revealed a massive 4.2 per cent jump, 24 per cent of which was the result of the increase in value-added tax and other duties announced in the Budget.

Since it is the direct and expected effect of the Chancellor's own anti-inflationary measures taken two months ago, he does not see it as a reason for running into new measures.

Yesterday's Chequers meeting was called to discuss industrial strategy and, in particular, to decide what clarifications are needed in the proposed White Paper on the subject, which the Government's Treasury Bill can continue through the Commons. Progress was held up this week because of uncertainties caused by Mr. Benn's move from the Department of Industry to the Home Office.

The retail price figures for May suggest that inflation has continued to run at an annual rate of about 30 per cent over the latest six months.

The annual rate of increase between November and May

## Mr Wilson calls talks to avert the rail strike

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

Mr Wilson moved into the railway dispute last night with the full weight of Downing Street diplomacy and succeeded in calling top level talks tonight with the leadership of the National Union of Railwaymen.

With other senior Cabinet ministers, the Prime Minister will address the entire 24-man executive of the NUR at 8 o'clock tonight, driving home the seriousness of the nation's economic plight and calling for support for the TUC social contract with the Government.

The indications are that a compromise move will be made in an attempt to satisfy the NUR leaders, who have so far been adamant that they will not call off the strike threat.

Mr Wilson said that he was claiming for the new rise of 3.5 per cent, tapering off to 30 per cent for the higher-paid, is conceded.

## Honours list recognizes Women's Year

By Staff Reporters

To commemorate International Women's Year, the Birthday Honours list published today contains six DBEs and other awards to women prominent in all walks of life.

Usually there is only one DBE in the awards. Those honoured in this list are Mrs Vera Lynn, the singer, Mrs Wendy Hillier, the actress, Mrs Betty Ridley, for her work for the Church of England, Miss Frances Gardner, Dean of the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, Miss Bridget Dwyer, for services to the D'Oyly Carte Opera Trust, and Miss Margaret Kidd, QC, formerly Sheriff Principal for Perth and Angus.

Six new life peers are named: Sir Don Ryder, the Government's chief industrial adviser, who produced the recent report on the affairs of British Leyland; Sir Leslie Lever, former MP for Manchester, Ardwick, and brother of Mr Harold Lever, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster; Mr Sydney Jacobson, who was until recently editorial director and deputy chairman of the International Publishing Corporation; Sir William Barnetson, chairman of United Newspapers Ltd and of Reuters; Mr John Fairman, managing director of Fairman Engineering Ltd, of Stockport; and Mr John Farquharson Smith, a former Lord Provost of Aberdeen.



Sir Don Ryder (Baron)

Vera Lynn (DBE)

John Profumo (CBE)

Awards to people in the arts include the appointment as CBE of Miss Fay Compton, the actress; Mr Tommy Trinder, the comedian, for charitable services; Mr Peter Ustinov; and Mr Philip Larkin, the poet. New DBEs are Miss Nancy Burman, for her work for the theatre in the Midlands; Miss Miriam Karlin, the actress; Mr Clive Dunn, the character actor, well known for his performances in *Dad's Army*; Mr Douglas Robinson, until recently chorus master of the Covent Garden Opera Company; and Miss Rosemary Sutcliffe, for her contributions to children's literature.

Lord Aylestone, former chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, is made a Companion of Honour. Among awards to people in broadcasting and journalism, Mr A. M. Rendel, who recently retired after long service as Diplomatic Correspondent of *The Times*, is made a Companion of Honour.

Continued on page 2, col 3

## Car washing enters the Continental Sunday

From Dan van der Vat  
Dunn, June 13

In a judgment that strikes at the very root of the German way of life, the Bavarian Supreme Court has ruled that it is legal for a citizen to wash his car on a Sunday.

This is a revolutionary step. As many an innocent foreigner knows to his cost, a decision to wash the car on Sunday morning is not to be taken lightly in this country. All good West Germans clean their cars on Saturday.

But at 3 pm on Whit Sunday, 1974, a stage electrician set about washing his car at the back of his mother's house in Berchtesgaden, on a public footway leading to the local cemetery and a sanatorium. An elderly couple, on their way to one of the other, took offence at this breach of the Sabbath and complained to the police.

The police imposed an on-the-spot fine of £5.50 for "disturbing the Sunday peace." The electrician refused to pay, but the local court, to whom the case was referred, found him guilty and imposed a fine of £9.

The electrician appealed. The state-attorney's office in Munich opened an investigation for the state Supreme Court and reported to an appeals panel that the lower court's finding did not appear justified.

The judges took the same view.

In an article adopted verbatim from the constitution of the Weimar Republic, the West German Constitution says: "Sundays and the public holidays recognized by the state shall remain under legal protection as days of rest from work and of spiritual edification."

The Bavarian Supreme Court ruled that "the non-commercial washing of a car, carried out by hand, is permitted, if the quiet of fellow-citizens is thereby impaired only trivially."

So the Briton eager for the delights of the "Continental Sunday," now knows that he need not clean himself of "spiritual edification" of washing his car in Bavaria.



Grim-faced women at Houghton Main colliery, in South Yorkshire, yesterday when the death toll after Thursday's underground explosion rose to five. Report, page 3.

## Brezhnev warning on 'more frightful' arms

From Edmund Stevens  
Moscow, June 13

Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, today called for an international agreement banning the development of new weapons of mass destruction. He gave a warning that modern science had attained a level at which there was serious danger that weapons more frightful even than nuclear ones might be developed.

He added that humanity's reason and conscience dictated the necessity for "erecting an insurmountable barrier across the road to the appearance of such weapons." He acknowledged this task would require the combined efforts of many countries.

The Soviet Union and the United States, if they acted together, could make "no small contribution." He did not elaborate on how restraints on

## Makarios concession to Turks

Nicosia, June 13—Archbishop Makarios, the President of Cyprus, today offered a big concession to Turkish Cypriots in exchange for the release of Greek Cypriot prisoners allegedly still held by the Turks.

Speaking at the United Nations Security Council, prepared to convene in New York, President Makarios told relatives of missing Greek Cypriots: "In order to save the lives of Greek Cypriots... We propose that all Turkish Cypriots in the south be moved to the north, together with their furniture and other belongings, as demanded by the Turks, in exchange for the release of Greek Cypriot captives."

This is the closest that the Archbishop has come to yielding to the Turkish demand for a two-zone federation on the island.—UPI.

## Treasury tightens financial vice on nationalized industries

By Corina  
Editor

Year of mass dismissals and nationalized industries has been tightened by a Treasury decision to guarantee the deficits of the industries making "pay settlements."

The move in the industry would wreck all meeting his Budget for state industries borrowing and price controls.

A strong pressure on the Union of Railwaymen's present pay because other trade unions will be quick to imitate to jobs in their corporations.

Immediately ruled the Post Office Corporation's postal revenues of £1.2 billion to be dealt a savage blow by the coal, electricity and gas industries, leading against mounting bond to run up new

The boards of the state corporations will rapidly be caught in the jaws of a financial vice being tightened by the Treasury. They will not be permitted to exceed public borrowing forecasts and they will not be able to count on taxpayer subsidies that previously made their deficits. Further price rises are inevitable, but the point is being reached where demand falls.

Mr Healey is committed to a Budget pledge to hold state industry subsidies in the current financial year to £100m at current prices. As £70m is earmarked for the distressed Post Office, that leaves £30m, most of it for electricity boards. Even in the most dire financial emergencies reserve powers to pay out more will not be fully used.

The Government is not prepared to allow heavier loans to the state enterprises beyond what has been agreed, especially as public borrowing has begun to exceed forecasts.

When the Prime Minister meets heads of the nationalized

industries soon, he is bound to be warned that manpower and investment will be at risk unless the railwayman can be persuaded to call off their strike.

There is no more dramatic illustration of that than the case of the Post Office. Talks are taking place with the Government about staff cuts and the unions have been told about the serious state of the corporation's finances.

Without rail disruption, and in spite of major price rises, losses are mounting towards £300m this year, and the Treasury refuses to revise its £70m deficit compensation forecast for 1975-76.

Savage economies seem certain for postal and telephone services, the labour force of which increased sharply between 1974 and 1975 to 434,000.

Mr K. Cadbury, the corporation's assistant managing director, has told the Post Office Engineering Union to expect to see some changes in the manpower figures in earlier budgets.

Mr Bennett's warning, page 3

## Girl aged four killed in booby-trap car blast

From Our Correspondent  
Belfast

A Belfast girl, aged four, was killed yesterday when a 3lb booby-trap bomb exploded in the family car. Her father was badly injured and is understood to have lost an arm.

The explosion happened as Mr. John O'Connor, a Roman Catholic bar manager, of Sunnyside Park, was preparing to take his daughter, Michelle, to a nursery school. The car was in a communal car park.

A neighbour's child would normally also have been in the car, but she had not wanted to go to the school yesterday.

The girl was the ninety-sixth victim of the violence this year. The Royal Ulster Constabulary

said that any "self-respecting" person should be appalled at the "horrible and brutal murder of an innocent child."

Loyalist politicians have condemned the attack. Mr Edward Burns, chief whip of the Democratic Unionist Party, said that no cause could justify such a brutal act.

Two men killed in Belfast on Thursday when a bomb exploded in the car in which they were travelling were identified yesterday as Mr James McGreggor, aged 38, an unemployed labourer who lived in Shamrock Street, and Mr Thomas Chapman, aged 29, who lived in Sunningdale Gardens. Both were Protestants.

Photograph, page 2

## Large increase in rate building society receipts

Building society net receipts fell to May—the second best figure after jumping £12m to a £60m in April. The May figure shows the impact of the new cut in investment rate the fact that the change, per cent to 7 per cent, did not affect until the beginning of



New police chief, Mr James Houghton, aged 61, Chief Constable of Merseyside, has been appointed Chief Inspector of Constabulary, to succeed Sir John Hill, who retires at the end of the year.

## Hare Coursing Bill read second time

The Hare Coursing Bill, to make competitive coursing matches illegal, was given its second reading in the Commons yesterday by 217 votes to 101, a Government majority of 116.

Dr Shirley Summerskill, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office, had described it as a cruel sport, no longer acceptable to public opinion.

Parliamentary report, page 6

## Mistaken victim

A bomb, which seriously injured Mr Bernard Cabanes, deputy editor of the *Agence France-Presse*, near Paris yesterday, is thought to have been intended for his namesake who is editor-in-chief of the strike-bound newspaper, *Le Parisien Libéré*.

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## Stonehouse bail

A detective told Melbourne magistrates he had intercepted mail sent to Mr John Stonehouse, although he had no warrant to do so. The court freed Mr Stonehouse on bail after he had spent four days in a Melbourne prison.

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## Leads out of Europe

Leeds United have been banned from European football competitions on the next two occasions that they qualify, because of the violent behaviour of their supporters at the European Cup final in Paris last month.

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HOME NEWS

# Mrs Thatcher drops criticism of Labour's 'power maniacs' from Cardiff speech

From Trevor Fishlock  
Cardiff

Mrs Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, prepared a caustic attack on "Labour Party power maniacs" for a speech to Welsh businessmen in Cardiff yesterday. But when she looked around the room she changed her mind and sheathed her sword.

According to her press officer, who spoke to reporters before the speech and quoted from her speech notes, Mrs Thatcher had intended to say that the Labour Party was manipulated by a tiny, unrepresentative clique motivated more by power madness than any desire to improve the welfare of the British people.

She would have added that at one time the Conservatives were accused of running the country through a small aristocratic group, and that the Labour Party claimed to speak for the people. Today, however, it was the Tories who were the true democrats and the Labour Party which was unrepresentative and run by a small group with a mania for more power.

One of the central questions was whether the extremists, on whom it was claimed the Prime Minister relied to retain power, would let him take the steps necessary to create a climate in which free enterprise could flourish.

She had intended to ask: "Who wants more nationalization?" and answer: "Only the extremists in the Labour Party." She would have said that perhaps it was government policy to squeeze firms to death and then to nationalize them for next to nothing.

After delivering her speech to Cardiff Chamber of Commerce and Trade, Mrs Thatcher said that journalists should report the remarks that had been omitted as if she had made them at a press conference.

She said she had not included them in her speech because she had observed that there was a politically mixed audience and she felt that such remarks were not appropriate to that occasion. Perhaps she also had in mind the presence on her table of Mr George Thomas, Deputy Speaker, the Labour MP for Cardiff, West.

In her speech to the businessmen she suggested government financing of trade union postal ballots to elect officials.

"The reasoning is that once you can persuade people to exercise their democratic rights and not be lethargic you may find that the commonsense majority predominate and the extremists fall to get elected. It is a small step, but it might help."

She praised private enterprise and small businesses for their part in the development of British commerce. Britain relied on private enterprise for most of her exports, and the Government should drop certain schemes for nationalization altogether, she added.

She said that businessmen put five key points to her: that the Government ought to restore the profitability of private enterprise; that the Government should make a mixed economy work and not go in for more nationalization; that there should be more encouragement for the self-employed and small businesses; that public expenditure should not be increased; and "please can we find a way of mobilizing the commonsense majority in this country which is as hardworking and as full of common sense as it always was."

Mrs Thatcher, making her first visit to Wales as Tory leader, spent a few minutes talking to shoppers in Cardiff.



Mrs Thatcher yesterday leaving for Wales.

Mr Thorpe, the Liberal leader, said yesterday that a statutory wage and prices policy must be introduced soon. Unless wage inflation was controlled, more than 1,500,000 people would be unemployed by next spring, he told the Scottish Liberal Party conference in Ayr.

Since 1971, the pound had been devalued by 26.2 per cent against other world currencies, he said. "Unless we can control wage inflation we are going to price ourselves out of the world markets. We will have nearer 1,250,000 unemployed by Christmas, and anything above the 1,500,000 mark by next spring."

A railway strike was coming up in which an increase of 27.5 per cent offered by arbitration had been rejected. And that was in an industry which would be £500m in deficit by the end of the year.

We cannot as a nation go on living at this reckless rate. All the Government says is "we will cut back expenditure, which will in turn create more unemployment and if so this is a discipline which will make people react." Let me tell you it will not. The very last people to be shaken out will be the people with powerful bargaining forces.

## Little prospect of Industry Bill changes

By Our Political Correspondent  
With Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, absent at Houghton Colliery, Yorkshire, economic ministers of the Cabinet with their professional advisers met at Chequers yesterday to discuss economic strategy and, in particular, the Government's policy on the Industry Bill, which has run into

widespread opposition from business interests.

After the meeting, which continued for about four and a half hours, including a "working lunch", one source indicated that no fundamental changes are likely in the general shape of the Bill. Its aim is to provide for planning agreements with large firms in key sectors of industry in return for aid provided through the proposed National Enterprise Board.

It seems that the 13 cabinet ministers present yesterday, with Lord Hailsham, Minister of State, Department of Energy, and Mr Samuel Silkin, QC, the Attorney General, were not inclined to make drastic changes.

## Rees aim 'a normal life for Ulster'

By Our Political Staff

Mr Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, yesterday again rejected suggestions that there would be an immediate withdrawal of the Army from Northern Ireland, and restated the Government's wish to make a planned, orderly and progressive reduction in the Army's commitments.

Speaking in Clifton, Bedfordshire, he said that in the past month 81 people had been sentenced to a total of 500 years in prison and nine others given life sentences. He continued: "As I have said in the House of Commons, the Government's policy is, and has been, to seek a lasting peace in Northern Ireland, a genuine end of violence, not a temporary halt.

The Government's policy in relation to the ceasefire is simple, sincere and public. It is to seek a normal way of life for the people of Northern Ireland. The way forward is for violence to end so that all those in detention can be released and the Army can take on a peace-time role.

Mr Rees said that the ceasefire had unmasked much violence by other people in both communities, which had to be stamped out if the road forward was not to remain blocked for ever.



A bomb-trapped car which yesterday killed a Belfast girl aged four.

by other people in both communities, which had to be stamped out if the road forward was not to remain blocked for ever.

I am sometimes told that I should take off the kid gloves and let the security forces deal ruthlessly with terrorism. Others say that I must release all detainees. But I have to strike a balance of all the consequences of whatever action I may take, because I am responsible for the safety and well-being of all the people of Northern Ireland. There are no simple answers.

## Nalgo will seek flat rate rises next year

By Patricia Tisdall

The fall in the value of the pound this week will put additional surcharges on the cost of holidays abroad in August, but some package tour companies, notably Cosmos, are already asking clients for extra cash. Others, including Thomas Cook and Thomson Holidays, are sticking to the industry's policy of holding prices after the final invoices go out, which is usually eight weeks before departure.

Despite recommendations by the Office of Fair Trading and the tour operators council of the Association of British Travel Agents, Cosmos collected surcharges at airports yesterday. An additional 50p a head was claimed for holidays to Greece and between £1 and £2.50 for holidays to Spain and Italy.

Thomson Holidays, the largest company, and Thomas Cook will not reflect the exchange fluctuations in their prices until next month. The next batch of Thomson invoices, which go out early next week, will include surcharges calculated at Monday's exchange prices.

That will affect holiday-makers going abroad between August 24 and 31. Customers taking their holidays before August 24 will pay surcharges based on the exchange rates of June 2—before the present fluctuations.

Starting cheque warning: The Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) said yesterday that because of the uncertainty surrounding the pound holiday-makers should check with their banks to see whether it might be best to take local currency or local travellers' cheques (the Press Association reports).

The check was necessary because during times of difficulty for sterling some hotels, restaurants and shops abroad might be reluctant to accept sterling travellers' cheques and pound notes.

## Holiday firms disagree on higher surcharges

By Patricia Tisdall

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## Protest over withdrawal of concession on land

By Our Political Correspondent

Mr Hugh Rossi, MP for Inverclyde, Homsey, and Conservative spokesman on housing, yesterday protested the Government's change of attitude towards exemption of land owned by the churches and some other bodies from the provisions of the Community Land Bill.

In a statement last night, Mr Rossi quoted a letter made in the committee proceedings on the Bill, Oakes, Parliamentary Secretary of State for the Environment.

He stated that he had written Mr Silkin, Minister of State, Planning and Local Government, to deny that a withdrawing had been the local authorities would, placed under an obligation to acquire land owned by churches and some other bodies and that if they did such land by agreement would buy it not as use but at full market value. Mr Rossi said that Opposition's view that a big concession was being made according to the Committee statement, Mr Rossi refused to acknowledge such an undertaking given. Mr Rossi commended the Government for backing down by a comment on promises the beer clearly given in a letter.

## Two cleared of rape charge

By Our Political Correspondent

Two men accused of a young woman's rape were cleared by a jury at the Criminal Court yesterday.

Michael Patrick Dooley, 26, a market trader, of Green Gardens, Romford, and David Cooper, aged 24, a painter, of Palmers, C Site, Oldchurch Road, Romford, were cleared of the charge.

## Book thieves caught

By Our Political Correspondent

An electronic system at a Central Library has caught 100 people stealing worth nearly £7,000 in a year, it was stated yesterday.

## Fire at jail

By Our Political Correspondent

Staff at Albany, the security jail, on the 11th, are investigating cause of a fire on a 1st early yesterday.

## Social services aim at big training growth

By Our Social Service Correspondent

In the past three years 7,325 students have qualified as social workers, more than half the number of the previous 63 years. But still only four out of 10 field social workers and four out of 100 residential staff are qualified.

That was disclosed yesterday by the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work, which replaced three former specialized training councils three years ago.

Sir Derman Christopherson, chairman of the council, said it began work at a time of unprecedented expansion in the social services. In 1971-72 services expanded by 15 per cent in 1972-73 by 14 per cent and in 1973-74 by 12 per cent.

"This expansion has made acute the many shortages of qualified people among the several categories of social service staff which have always existed," he said. "Discrimination against women would continue and even accelerate, in spite of public expenditure cuts."

The council, financed by the Government but operating independently, was confident its target of 50 per cent expansion in training places for field social workers to 4,000, by 1976-77 would be reached.

## Women call for strategy to beat poverty

By Our Political Staff

The International Women's Year theme of equality, development and peace has been incorporated in a pamphlet suggesting a 10-point anti-poverty strategy for Britain. It is produced by the National Labour Women's Advisory Committee.

It points out that although the greatest poverty is found outside Britain, there is a substantial amount in this country.

It was stated yesterday that the United Kingdom delegation to the World Conference on International Women's Year in Mexico City will include the following:

Leader: Dr Summerskill, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office.

Alternate leader and representative: Mrs Millie Miller, MP, Representative: Dr Janet Cockcroft, Secretary, Status of Women Commission.

Sex Bill move: The Government is to restore all three clauses on which it was defeated during the committee stage of the Discrimination Bill (a Staff Reporter writes). The Bill is due to have its third reading on Wednesday.

The clauses concern male midwives, the retention of the Factory Act limitations on the hours women are allowed to work, and the right to organize single-sex trade unions.

## Doctor cleared of indecent assault on girl aged seven

By Our Political Staff

Dr Thomas Waters, a child psychiatrist, who was accused of indecently assaulting a girl patient, aged seven, was cleared by a jury of nine men and three women at Maidstone Crown Court yesterday.

The jury retired twice yesterday, the fifth day of the trial, before unanimously finding Dr Waters not guilty.

Dr Waters had agreed during the trial that he had taken down the girl's trousers and pants and touched her private parts.

He was "only trying to teach her not to be ashamed of her body."

The girl had been referred to him at the West Kent Hospital because she was suffering from occasional trance-like states.

After the trial, Dr Waters, aged 44, of Bower Mount Road, Maidstone, said that while the complaint against him was not unjustified, perhaps the girl's mother should first have sought advice about the matter from the hospital administration.

## Plan to prevent low level RAF-civil air crashes

By Our Air Correspondent

A plan designed to prevent collisions between low-flying Royal Air Force and civil aircraft was announced in a Commons written reply yesterday by Mr Brynmor John, Under-Secretary of State for the RAF.

The plan is being introduced after a fatal collision last August between a Phantom fighter and a crop-spraying aircraft in East Anglia.

Civil pilots intending to operate at heights under 500ft will be invited to give advance notification to the military traffic control authorities low-level RAF training undertaken at weekends, a civil pilot will have a 10-minute clearance of the airfield specified period.

"We are considering feasibility of making military aircraft more conspicuous John said. "One of the problems here is that the aircraft must retain their flag for operational reasons."

## Teacher denies assaulting boys in church crypt

By Our Political Staff

A schoolteacher denied yesterday indecently assaulting two boys in a church crypt. Clive Wilcock, aged 36, of Hollinwood Avenue, Moston, Manchester, pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiring to indecently assault boys and to publish obscene photographs.

The prosecution alleges that Mr Wilcock, Raymond Varley, a photographer, the Rev John Poole, former vicar of Holy Trinity church, Huddersfield, and a man called Jack Nichols, were engaged in debauching and corrupting young boys. Mr Poole and Mr Varley are serving prison sentences.

Mr Wilcock said he was a student at Durham University when he met Mr Poole and he had had an acquaintance with him over 20 years but saw him only two or three times a year.

He denied indecently assaulting two boys in a park in Huddersfield and said he did not take them back to the crypt of Holy Trinity church and behave indecently.

Mr Varley, he said, took some photographs of a boy at his flat in February, 1974. The boy was dressed. He went to make coffee and when he returned the boy was undressed and Mr Varley had a camera. He told them to drink the coffee and leave. He had never received any indecent photographs from Mr Varley.

In further evidence Mr Wilcock said he did not show a boy of 13 books. He said: "He saw copies of Penthouse, Men Only, and things like that, but nothing else."

He said he bought a book *Beast of Jersey* and a boy aged 13 had shown interest in it. Judge Henry Scott, QC, asked him: "Do you think it is suitable reading for 13-year-old boys?"

Mr Wilcock replied: "No, I asked him what his interest was and he seemed to want to read it."

The trial continues on Monday.

## List inaugurates new series of awards

Continued from page 1

Mr John Russell, the art critic, made CBE; Mr Roy Plimley, the presenter of *Desert Island Discs*, becomes an OBE.

Mr William Fairley, deputy editor of the Press Association, and Mr Durham Paddock, freelance journalist who has been *The Times* correspondent in Liverpool for 25 years, are made MBEs.

Awards for sport include the appointment as CBE of Brian Clark, for services to cricket; as OBE, Mr E. E. Foster, the cyclist; Mr James G. Durand, chairman of the Scottish Professional Golfers' Association; Mr Clifford Lloyd, secretary and treasurer of the Professional Footballers' Association; and Major Leslie Petch, for services to horse racing; and as MBEs, Mr Joe Brown, the mountain-climber, Mr Gareth Edwards, the Welsh rugby player, Mr Emily Jones, director of the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, and Mrs R. R. Markus, for services to bridge.

Two Australian cricketers are made MBEs: Douglas Walters, who is in England with the Australian Test team, and Ian Redpath.

Eleven people connected with the rescue operation after the Moorgate Underground railway disaster last March, in which 43 people died, are honoured. There was wide praise for the time for rescue workers from the many services involved.

Mr G. H. Hafter, rolling stock engineer (railways) with London Transport, is made an OBE and Mr Leyshon Lougher, chargehand of London Transport's New Cross breakdown garage, receives the BEM. Mr Lougher, aged 60, who worked in the tunnel for continuous periods of up to 12 hours, is commended for his "excellent leadership of a high order in conditions of extreme unpleasantness and difficulty."

For services to race relations, Mr Mahendra Kaal is made an OBE. He is a producer and presenter of the Asian programmes unit of the BBC.

A new series of awards for New Zealanders is inaugurated in the list. It names the first recipients of appointments to the Queen's Service Order (QSO) and of awards of the Queen's Service Medal (QSM).

The QSO and QSM are awarded for either community service or public services, and were introduced as a result of a review of the honours system in New Zealand by the late Prime Minister, Mr Norman Kirk. The awards were discussed with the Queen during her visit to New Zealand last year and reflect the fact that she is now the first "Queen of New Zealand."

The QSO badge is based on a stylized representation of a Manuka flower, and the ribbon is based on the Maori Poutama design.

Under the honours review, the Imperial Service Order will be discontinued in New Zealand and less use will be made of the British Empire Medal, which will be gradually phased out. Australian awards: Miss Joan Sutherland, the opera singer, has been awarded the Order of Australia. However, only two Labour-controlled states have accepted the system. The other four have continued to recommend honours to the Queen.

Lists in full, pages 4 and 5  
Business honours, page 15

## Detective warned gang of police trap, jury is told

By Our Political Staff

A self-confessed gunman and bank robber who is serving a five-year sentence told a jury at the Central Criminal Court yesterday that a planned armed robbery was called off after a detective inspector gave a warning of a police trap.

Mr Maurice O'Mahoney pleaded guilty at the Central Criminal Court last December to robbery, attempted robbery and burglary.

He is a principal prosecution witness in the case against nine men and four women who are variously accused on nine charges.

Mr O'Mahoney began his evidence by detailing plans for an armed raid on the Glyved Bank Company premises at Greenford, Middlesex.

He said he befriended one of the security guards there, Eric Gibson, aged 38, of Glyved Hill, Norwood, South London, one of the accused in the originally planned raid John Thorne, aged 43, of Doves Road, Hackney, London; Joseph Perrin Stevens, aged 29, of Gresham Road, Saundridge, Middlesex; and Ronald Cook, aged 40, of Peterborough Road, Leyton, London, were involved.

Mr O'Mahoney said he, Mr Stevens and Mr Thorne met in a flat where Mr Thorne received a telephone call from a detective inspector warning them that a police trap had been set.

The raid was called off then, but eventually carried out last May.

## Bail refused on charge of incitement

By Our Political Staff

One of 14 people due to appear at the Central Criminal Court in September charged with conspiracy in issuing a booklet inciting soldiers to disaffection was refused bail yesterday on a further charge of incitement.

William Rotherington, aged 41, a Walsall social services research officer, whose address was given as Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff, was remanded in custody for the second time at Bow Street Magistrates' Court.

He is accused of "endeavouring to persuade a member of the Forces from his duty or allegiance" on April 24, Mr Rotherington had previously been on bail, until the hearing of his original charge.

## Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars

FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded

(Symbols are as explained above)

Today Sun rises: 4.43 am Sun sets: 8.13 pm Moon rises: 10.22 am Moon sets: 12.6 am tomorrow

First Quarter: June 16  
Lighting up: 9.49 pm to 4.13 am  
High water: London Bridge, 5.41 am, 7.3m (25.9ft); 5.53 pm, 7.7m (25.6ft). Avonmouth, 11.25 am, 12.5m (41.0ft); 11.45 am, 12.6m (41.2ft). Dover, 2.45 am, 6.3m (20.7ft); 2.45 am, 6.3m (20.7ft). Hull, 9.56 am, 7.1m (23.4ft); 10.40 am, 6.8m (22.3ft). Liverpool, 2.58 am, 9.1m (30.0ft); 3.31 pm, 3.7m (12.1ft).

Tomorrow Sun rises: 4.43 am Sun sets: 8.19 pm Moon rises: 12.6 am Moon sets: 11.42 am

Lighting up: 9.49 pm to 4.13 am  
High water: London Bridge, 6.28 am, 7.1m (23.4ft); 6.41 pm, 6.3m (20.7ft). Avonmouth, 12.15 pm, 12.1m (39.7ft); Dover, 3.40 am, 6.2m (20.3ft); 4.4 pm, 6.3m (20.7ft). Hull, 10.44 am, 7.0m (22.9ft); 11.30 pm, 6.6m (21.7ft). Liverpool, 3.47 am, 9.0m (29.4ft); 4.24 pm, 8.5m (28.0ft).

Although pressure will remain relatively high over the United Kingdom a weak trough of low pressure will move slowly S. Forecast for 6 am to midnight: London, East Anglia, SE, Central S England, Channel Islands: Mainly dry, sunny spells, cloudy later; wind W light or moderate; max temp 23°C (73°F). Rather cloudy, bright spells, occasional rain later; wind SW light or moderate; max temp 22°C (72°F). SW England, S Wales: Mostly cloudy, hill fog, occasional rain later; max temp 19°C (66°F). N Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, NE, NW England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Moray Firth: Cloudy, occasional rain, becoming brighter; wind W, moderate or fresh; max temp 17°C (63°F). Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland, sunny spells, scattered showers; wind W, moderate or fresh; max temp 16°C (61°F). NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Sunny periods, occasional showers; wind W, fresh or strong; max temp 15°C (59°F). Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Becoming cooler and more changeable, with showers in most areas but also sunny intervals. Sea: S. North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind W, moderate or fresh; sea slight or moderate.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; s, sun.

Place	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Algeria	28	SE	100
Amsterdam	18	W	100
Antwerp	18	W	100
Athens	28	SE	100
Bombay	32	SE	100
Buenos Aires	22	SE	100
Calcutta	32	SE	100
Canton	28	SE	100
Cebu	32	SE	100
Colon	28	SE	100
Hankow	28	SE	100
Hong Kong	28	SE	100
Kobe	22	SE	100
London	18	W	100
Lyons	18	W	100
Manila	32	SE	100
Medan	32	SE	100
Perth	22	SE	100
Rangoon	32	SE	100
Shanghai	28	SE	100
Singapore	32	SE	100
Sourabaya	32	SE	100
Tientsin	28	SE	100
Yokohama	22	SE	100

Overseas selling prices  
Australia, 15s 10d; Belgium, 15s 10d; Canada, 15s 10d; Denmark, 15s 10d; Finland, 15s 10d; France, 15s 10d; Germany, 15s 10d; Greece, 15s 10d; India, 15s 10d; Italy, 15s 10d; Japan, 15s 10d; Korea, 15s 10d; Netherlands, 15s 10d; New Zealand, 15s 10d; Norway, 15s 10d; Portugal, 15s 10d; Spain, 15s 10d; Sweden, 15s 10d; Switzerland, 15s 10d; Taiwan, 15s 10d; Thailand, 15s 10d; United States, 15s 10d; USSR, 15s 10d; Yugoslavia, 15s 10d.

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Braunfelsstraße 82  
Tel. 0206-42824



100







## THDAY HONOURS



Peter Ustinov (CBE)

Amy Trinder (CBE)

Pay Compton (CBE)



Sir Leslie Lever (Baron)

A. M. Rendel (CBE)

## DIPLOMATIC SERVICE AND OVERSEAS LIST

**GHITS BACHELOR**  
Maurice Herbert, Chief of the West Indies, Associated States and the Caribbean, for services to the community and to commerce in Guyana.

**OF ST MICHAEL AND ST GEORGE**  
Sir Edward, HM Ambassador, Paris.

**KCMG**  
Sir Lee, HM Ambassador, London.

**CMG**  
Derick Sherborne Lind, HM Ambassador, Brasilia.

**CMG**  
Donald Claude, Foreign Commissioner, Guyana.

**CMG**  
Paul Hervé Girard, lately Ambassador, Beirut.

**CMG**  
Sir Robert, lately Acting Secretary of the East African Community.

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Dennis Tudor, QC, Secretary, Hong Kong.

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## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE LIST

**KNIGHT BACHELOR**  
Mickelson, Harold Herbert, chairman of the New South Wales Public Service Board.

## OF ST MICHAEL AND ST GEORGE

**CMG**  
Ashkin, Sir Robert William, lately Premier of New South Wales.

## OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

**DSE**  
Macdonald, Mrs Helen Frances, for services to the community.

## KBE

**CBE**  
Wills, Eric Archibald, lately Deputy Premier of New South Wales.

## OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

**CBE**  
G. A. Crossing, serv to primary school.

## OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

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## WEST EUROPE

## Paris news agency chief hurt in explosion intended for namesake

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, June 13

M. Bernard Cabanes, deputy editor of Agence France-Presse, the French news agency, was seriously injured by a bomb explosion early this morning at his home near Paris. It is suspected that he was mistaken for M. Bernard Cabanes, editor-in-chief of the newspaper *Parisien Libéré*, where a month-long strike by printers had earlier led to violent incidents.

Another and almost simultaneous explosion this morning caused extensive damage at the Paris suburban home of M. André Bergeron, secretary general of the Force Ouvrière, a union federation which has been in the printers' strike. M. Bergeron was unhurt.

Commenting on the bomb attacks today, M. Pompidou, the Minister of the Interior, said that they were probably an act of leftist provocation. "I do not think the authors are members of the printers' union. The style of action is rather that of leftist circles. But violence engenders violence; and it must be acknowledged that the printers' union had used violence on several occasions, by attacking vans, seizing the newspapers they carried, or

molesting their drivers," he declared.

In fact the printers themselves condemned the bombings. "Those are not our methods," said the strikers occupying the two printing plants of the newspaper in Paris. "The printing workers have never used violence against anyone," they added, accusing extreme right or left-wing and even suggesting deliberate police provocation. M. Georges Seguy, the secretary general of the Communist-led CGT, to which the printers belong, and the Communist and Socialist Parties all attributed the violence to fascist elements, intent upon discrediting the printing workers.

The apparent confusion in the minds of the bombers between two men with the same name inclines the police to believe that they are left-wing provocateurs.

The attack against M. Cabanes took place at 1.15 a.m. today. He was about to go to bed when he heard a noise outside his door. As he looked through the peephole to see who was there, he was hurled back into the flat by a violent explosion, which ripped off the door, caused extensive damage to the staircase, smashed windows, cut off

the electricity and severed water mains. M. Cabanes clutched his stomach and shouted "It's a bomb." He was bleeding profusely, but managed to extricate himself from the debris and totter on to the landing.

Taken to hospital, his condition was reported to be serious. He was suffering from injuries to the stomach, and the knees.

Soon after the explosion, just as the police had been notified, an anonymous caller rang up Radio Luxembourg twice to announce that he had taken place along with the one at the home of M. Bergeron. Both bombs, according to the police, appear to have been of the same manufacture. They went off within a few seconds of one another, but the explosion of the second was less violent. It caused no casualties.

The strike itself has reached a precarious stalemate. A ballot yesterday discreetly notified the unions of the court order instructing them to leave the works, and said that failure to do so would compel him to call in the police. But none has appeared on the scene so far, though there are rumours that the Government is planning to take strong action over the weekend.

## Policeman kills himself after prisoner escapes

From Our Correspondent  
Rome, June 13

A young Rome policeman committed suicide last night after a prisoner he had agreed to take on a "night out" gave him the slip and escaped.

Vittorio Rizza was one of two policemen guarding Piero Morletti, who was undergoing treatment in a Rome hospital. He was apparently persuaded by the prisoner to let him see his girlfriend for a couple of hours.

When Signor Morletti failed to reappear, the policeman searched for him but he had disappeared and shot himself with his service pistol.

## Finnish civil servants form caretaker government

Helsinki, June 13.—President Kekkonen of Finland today appointed a caretaker government of civil servants representing all the main parties except the communists.

The new Prime Minister, Mr. Kaarlo Linna, a Social Democrat, said he hoped a political government could be formed within about three months.

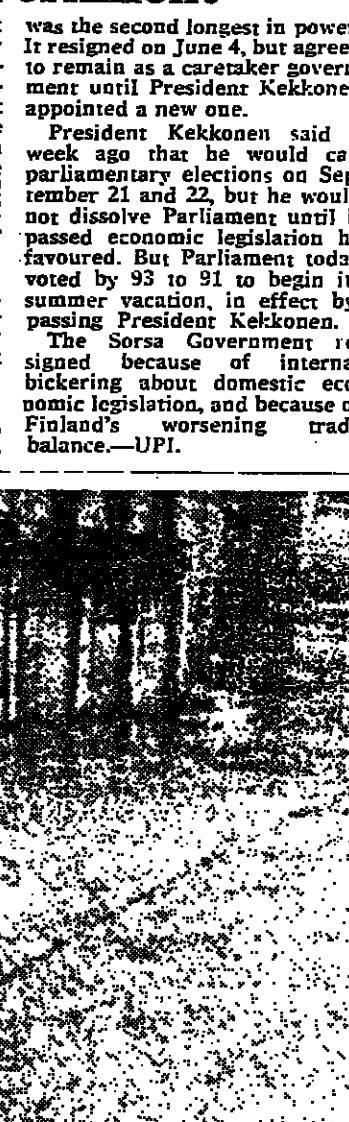
President Kekkonen appointed the fifty-seventh government in Finland's 58 years of independence after the four-party centre-left coalition Government of Mr. Kalevi Sorsa, a Social Democrat, resigned.

The Sorsa Government, appointed in September, 1972, was the second longest in power. It resigned on June 4, but agreed to remain as a caretaker government until President Kekkonen appointed a new one.

President Kekkonen said a week ago that he would call parliamentary elections on September 21 and 22, but he would not dissolve Parliament until it passed economic legislation he favoured. But Parliament today voted by 93 to 91 to begin its summer vacation, in effect bypassing President Kekkonen.

The Sorsa Government resigned because of internal bickering about domestic economic legislation, and because of Finland's worsening trade balance.—UPI.

## A street in Bilbao after two days of torrential rain in the region brought floods which swept away roads and railway lines, and caused extensive damage to crops.



## France says bomb attacks linked with Spanish police

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, June 13

M. Michel Poniatowski, Minister of the Interior, said today on television that "organizations working parallel with the Spanish police" were responsible for the recent spate of bomb attacks against Spanish refugees in South-West France.

"This violence must cease," the minister emphasized. Relations between France and Spain were not at stake, but the Spanish Government behaved in an "intolerable" manner by covering up the activities of its police in France.

The French Government was determined to put down severely any which could have been committed in French territory by members of the Spanish police. "These people will be brought before French courts," he added.

"The same goes for those among Spanish political refugees who do not respect the laws of political asylum. If the Spanish Government tolerates acts of this sort by its own police, or by elements close to them, then it is acting in an unfriendly fashion towards us."

A bomb was discovered today outside a Biarritz bookshop specializing in Basque literature and owned by Spanish exiles. It was hidden at the foot of the shop's iron shutter behind a poster, which fortunately came unstuck. The bomb was seen and defused in time by the owner of the shop, which is in one of the city's busiest thoroughfares, the Avenue Jauriaty.

French police seized plastic explosive and time-fuses in a car outside a villa at Saint Jean de Luz, where the Basque autonomist movement has its headquarters and where a bomb went off yesterday.

The car had a Bilbao number plate and was being sought by the French police because it had been seen several times in places where bomb attacks had been made.

## EEC ready to lower levies on Britain's beef imports

From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, June 13

In response to strong African protests, the European Commission is prepared to consider some reduction of the levies exacted on imports of beef into Britain, according to informal sources, but it cannot consider suspending them altogether.

At a press conference in Brussels yesterday, Dr. G. K. T. Chiepe, the Botswana Minister for Commerce and Industry, contended that his country's cattle farmers would face ruin in a matter of weeks unless the levies were abolished.

The minister, who is in Brussels for urgent talks on the beef issue with senior officials of the European Economic Community, said that lowering the levy on certain cuts of meat would "only scratch the surface" of the problem.

The Botswana Government says that the levy takes away 46 per cent of its earnings on sales of beef to Britain, and of the end of the year would reduce

the income of the entire rural sector by 35 per cent—although the country would have gone bankrupt long before then.

The Commission takes the view that Botswana's main problem is not the size of the levy but rather one of liquidity, owing to the fact that payments in some cases to be made in advance of receipt of sales proceeds.

Officials in Brussels argue that, even with the levy, Botswana is still getting a better return on its sales of beef to the EEC than it would on the world market.

Nevertheless, the fact that the Commission is ready to consider some lowering of the levies amounts to tacit recognition that they are too high.

The controversy has already considerably dissipated the aura of good will generated by last February's signing of the Lomé convention, to which Botswana and 45 other African, Caribbean and Pacific countries are parties.

## President of Portugal visits Romania

From Peter Nichols  
Rome, June 13

Dr. Mario Soares, the Portuguese Socialist leader, said here today that the Portuguese experience had a great symbolic importance for the whole European left.

This experience had taken place when capitalism was failing throughout Europe. The timing explained, he said, why the right had "orchestrated a harsh campaign of calumny against our revolution." He made clear that he was referring to the right wing of the governing Christian Democrats here, as well as the more general context of reaction.

He summed up the situation in Lisbon with the words: "We are a free country which regained its liberty and wants to keep it." He made little secret of the fact that the Portuguese Communists were proving an embarrassment.

Speaking of the Communist leader, Senhor Alvaro Cunhal, he said: "If Cunhal does not play a democratic game, it would be a great tragedy for our country." He did not think that such a tragedy would occur, which was why he was

## Dr Soares on Cunhal 'bitterness'

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Speaking of the Communist leader, Senhor Alvaro Cunhal, he said: "If Cunhal does not play a democratic game, it would be a great tragedy for our country." He did not think that such a tragedy would occur, which was why he was

trying to maintain a policy of unity with the Communists.

He suggested that part of Senhor Cunhal's criticism of the Socialists was due to the bitterness of a man who regarded himself as a national leader but ended with only 12 per cent of the vote. He added that he felt the Socialists had broadened their own support even more in Portugal since their excellent showing in the elections.

His analysis of the situation in Portugal began with an assertion that the Portuguese people were the true protagonists of the revolution while the Armed Forces Movement was its driving element.

The will of the people was expressed through political parties but, because of Portugal's particular circumstances, the contribution of the military had been decisive. It was an error to suppose that there was conflict between the two. He implied that they were complementary.

He did not make light of Portugal's difficulties. A revolution was, he pointed out, a "serious and complex matter." It did not necessarily proceed

along straight lines. Portugal had deep contradictions, being a country which had emerged from 14 years of colonial warfare and was facing a rapid revival of liberty after 50 years of dictatorship.

The country's economic state was "very worrying, but not desperate." He disagreed with American press reports that the country's currency reserves would be finished by September. The reserves would not be exhausted even if the present rhythm of public spending had to be maintained. A big effort was being made to increase production and diversify commercial relations with other countries.

The credits amounting to \$400m (£170m) from the European Economic Community, announced today, were a sign, he said, that all Europe wanted to help Portugal.

Portugal was also seeking to increase trade with the East and had recently concluded a favourable trade agreement with Poland. "The situation is in fact grave, and would become tragic if we did not take measures to meet it. We are taking them."







June 13, 1975  
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# A Parisian in London

by Richard Holmes

The Viollet Collection



Théophile Gautier, 1811-1872.  
A French observer fascinated by English  
men and women.

He walked down the Strand, surprisingly sunny morning in March, examining the otic engravings of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, and domestic from the tumbly, Théophile Gautier came upon a barrow boy, a water-pump mackin- It was a matter of gen- received knowledge that impermeable, like those viscous phenomena, the fish glass of stout, the fish pall of fog, and the fish phlegm contained whing of the philosophical ce of Britain. So Théo- Gautier, poet, litterateur, more practically regular- unist for Paris's leading newspaper the *Presse*, aside to observe. was March 1842. Gautier's and most brilliant baller le had just opened to ad houses in Her Majesty's re. The manager, Mr Ben- Lundy, had remanded the piece was "admitted to sily pretty", a judgement a Gautier, who spoke little o English, received as a rous compliment.

The peculiar absence of the barrow boy was justly anxious to demon- e that his mackintoshes genuinely waterproof. To ler's perplexity, he pro- ed to nail the circum- ce of one of the sacred ents to a horizontal wood- rams, suspended alongside stall. Into the shallow as depression thus formed, mpted a large enamel jug water. Into the water he d a bowl-full of engaging fish. He then produced a ful of small fishing lines, flourishing them, inquired her any of his customers d care to go fishing.

utter walked-on towards algar Square, where Lord n's column was gradually ing from a primal chaos of liding and publicity. He passed the Duke Northumberland's house, a sculpted lion guarded oral with its tail raised ally in the air. "It is the f Percy", Gautier noted unaccountable intention never has heraldic lion assly abused its right to -fabulous shapes-and The English were not an unreliable and eccen- tion, they were positive- as.

Gautier's first visit to n. He was 31, the ed author of an erotic *Mademoiselle de Mau-* and an arbiter of French y fashion. In the next 20 he was to make some- ore trips to the British e, reporting for his news- simply for his s, on a variety of national urities, including the Ascot methods of surviving idyary" turtle soup, the gs of Hogarth, the ssos of Sunday after- the canals of Regent's Zoo, Covent Garden, and rest Apotheosis at the Palace. Gautier came as a private citizen of and as a public repre- ve of civilization, roles ere not easily to be ished. Though he could before, on principle, -he found himself, by turns, amused, charmed, sed, perplexed, outraged, never lost that original ity of unassuming the ob- shadows clinging to etropolis of the northern like the ubiquitous soot he recorded with gallic- ess, made one blow no one's handkerchief.

ad struck him, in the perspective, even as his eat the *Harlequin*: first west into the yellow of the Thames Estuary, set, and a forest of dark ys gathered along the ks, sculptural, like col- vers and obelisks, "giv- the horizon an Egyptian vague profile of Thebes ylon, of an antediluvian capital of enormous yellous pride, something er extraordinary". It o impression that an- d another European's, Conrad's in the opening of *Heart of Darkness*, by years.

er saw the evidence of in the jostling host of nt craft, running, be- the lightships with their amps and scarlet pelm- ships from India, rock- orient perfume and ascar crews crowding- ing, ships from the Bal- the North Sea with of ice still frozen to bulwarks, ships from and America freighted ith tea and sugar cane. ong all that vast fleet, always recognise the ships: their sails are ke those of Thebes's departing for the Is- e, a sombre livery of mourning, rigged by climate of London, caught at the dominant

motif, hanging there, mute, un- explained. "London!" he exclaimed almost with enthu- siasm, "la ville natale du spleen". Yet returning from that first brief encounter, he was non- chalan, even rather knowing. He recorded the following dia- logue at a family dinner-table in this rue à Boétie. "Did you see the Tunnel? No, I didn't see the Tunnel. And West- minster? No, indeed. And St. Paul's? Oh, no. Then what on earth did you do in London? I wandered about town observing Englishmen and, more particularly, observ- ing English women. One can- not find their description in any guidebook, and they seemed to me quite as in- creasing as stones arranged one upon the other after a cer- tain fashion." Gautier added with some pain: "since this occasion the good bourgeois have regarded me as somewhat mad, suspecting me vaguely of harbouring cannibalistic tend- encies, and send their children up to bed when I come to call. I am seriously afraid that this will prejudice my marriage prospects."

The Tunnel in question was Monsieur Brunel's fled passage- way between Wapping and Rotherhithe, and could not strictly class as a British mar- vel. Though Gautier later reported in the *Presse* that a friend, presumably English, was working on plans for a Tunnel beneath the entire Manche, connecting Folke- stone with Calais, and contain- ing railway carriages fired along by compressed air. He remarked that he had, as a conscientious journalist, already reserved his seat for the first crossing, scheduled to take place four years hence, in 1847.

But Gautier was in no sense, as he frequently pretended, and as Henry James later brazenly assumed ("the broad- eyed gaze of a rustic at a fair"), an innocent abroad. As drama critic for the *Presse*, whose feuilletons ran on the front page beneath the political and business leaders of his excit- ing editor, the publishing mag- nate Emile de Girardin, he was normally tied to his regular evening despatches upon the Paris boulevards. But in the formula of his lifelong friend and collaborator on the *Presse*, Gérard de Nerval, he was "a traveller by instinct, a critic by circumstance".

Admitted every spring or sum- mer for 30 years, Gautier made good his escape from Paris, usually in a retrospective flurry of apologies, forwarding addresses, and promises of ex- otic copy. These flights of the swallows, as they became in one of his most famous poems, "Ce que disent les Hirondel- les", were made to Ger- many, Italy, Spain, North Africa, Egypt, Turkey, even eventually to Russia, and he subsequently published bril- liantly coloured, imagist accounts of all of them.

Even his apartment, in an Italianate *hôtel particulier* at 14 rue Navarin, off the place Fagale on Montmartre's lower- slope, expressed his search for spiritual displacement. Indeed, it was almost a caricature of French Romantic aspirations, furnished as it was with Tur- kish carpets, Siamese cats, and Italian musical ladies, and perfumed with Spanish cook- ing, Cuban cigars and Algerian hashish. There was, finally, to be an English element, but that was to prove part of the more intimate mœurs.

Moreover, Gautier was acutely conscious of the curiously modern desperation, almost the death-wish, implicit in this pas- sionate longing for other shores, other cities, the other world. Many of his springtime *feuilletons* each year played upon this theme with delibera- te irony, heralding the age of mass tourism in a distinctly minor key.

"Nowadays the dream of the masses is—Speed. By iron or steam they seek to conquer that ancient weight upon all things suspended." It would seem that their sole con- cern is to devour Space. Do they do 12 or 15 leagues an hour simply to flee from ennui? If so, the enemy awaits them at the farther platform. Yet how strange is this wild urge for rapid locomotion, seizing people of all nations at the same instant. The dead go swiftly, says the bal- lad. Are we dead, then? Or could this be some present- ment of the approaching doom of our planet, possessing us to multiply the means of com- munication so we may travel over its entire surface, in the little time left to us? It feels odd to read this para- graph on the faint, blue micro- films for the *Presse* of 1843.

Yet Gautier's journeys to London, while part of this life- long centrifugal urge, seem to have been of a different order. His notes have remained scat-

tered through a score of essays, letters, articles, poems and reviews. London was less a place to visit, than a state of mind to ponder upon. It was a dark mirror, a smoky crystal ball. You could turn it in your hand. Gautier remained pro- foundly uninterested in its institu- tions, its monuments, even its literary associations. Rather, it was its atmosphere, its tone, its iridescent quali- ties, its curious undercurrent of black comedy, which con- tinually drew him back.

On his second visit he sum- moned an English barber to his rooms at the Hotel Sablon- nière, in Leicester Square. His barber, La Ferri, with his un- touchable amour Carlotta Grisi dancing the tulle role, was playing at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. He was due at the Lord Mayor's procession and banquet. He needed a shave. The barber knocked, entered, bowed: a thin man, with the English whiteness of jowl, dressed entirely in black. In complete silence, with the flowing rapidity of a phantom, he shook out a crisp, white apron, adjusted a chair, and stropped a long razor. Gautier grew increasingly uneasy at each stroke, a victim of those unspeakable suspicions that separate native from foreigner, living from dead.

"Seeing him so chill, so pale, so mournful, I asked myself if he were not some ill-provisioned resurrectionist who wished to acquire a new subject. At the same time, I instinctively cast my eyes upon that part of the floor-board where my chair rested, anxious to ascertain whether or no there was a hidden trap- door through which I should plunge into the cellar bearing a large slit in my throat." On the point of calling off the whole operation, Gautier was saved by the inherited logic of Pascal and Voltaire. "I made the calming reflexion that, since I was lodged upon the second floor of the hotel, there could hardly be a cellarage beneath my parquet, and that a trapdoor in opening would make me fall to the first floor, depositing me exactly on top of the piano-forte of an extre- mely treacy young opera-singer." The joke *caricature* was no less than Carlotta's sister Ernesta, who subsequently bore Gautier two daughters. So the English barber was possi- bly a better *Figaro* than Gau- tier concluded at the time.

At Drury Lane, Gautier made extensive notations on the flesh tones of the English girls in the audience. No unspeakable suspicions that justice to their exquisiteness, Gautier felt, except possibly Sir Thomas Lawrence, who could be held ultimately

responsible for the creation of the English Rose type, the bloom of a thousand keep- sakes whose form and treas- ured leaves were pinned across the dressing-rooms of Europe. A connoisseur of textures, Gautier distinguished sharply between the opulent blonds and the tea- rose blonds, and gazed appreci- atively at the complexion of cheek, neck and gorge, which made "rice-paper, or the pulpy petal of the magnolia, or the inner pellicle of the egg, or the vellum on which the gothic miniaturists traced their deli- cate illuminations" look like coarse cloth by comparison. Yet the genial English passion for decorative gardens, when carried in all its stunning com- pleteness of fruit trees, herba- ceous borders and cockle shells, to the top of the English lady's hat, left him merely social.

In the middle of the ballet, Carlotta was required to per- form a daring leap in the *pas de sonde*, representing the descent of the peri from the heavenly sphere. It called for the greatest agility and nerve on her part, and perfect timing from her partner Petipa, whose task was to receive her bodily presence on the earth beneath. Occasionally in Paris this *pas de gazelle* had been muffed, and the French audiences, recalled Gautier, had hissed without mercy. At the third performance in Lon-

don, Carlotta once more mis- judged the dangerous jump. As she prepared for another leap, a ripple ran through the English audience, and mur- murs from the stalls were heard begging her not to risk such a frightful plunge at a second time. Then a sym- pathetic voice, from the gods, loudly suggested that it would be better to give Petipa a stiff drink first, as he could scarcely "stand up on his pins". Amidst a profound stillness Carlotta leapt into space, Petipa fielded sinuously, and the house sprang to its feet and gave them three cheers.

But then the English were different in sporting matters. Boats and horses alone really brought out their enthusiasm. There were even moments sug- gesting lyrical depths, as on the day's outing at Royal Ascot. Clutching his *Oxley's Authentic Racing Card*—which with Robinson Crusoe and the Mansion House menu, was one of the few British texts Gautier ever claimed to have read in the original—he stared round him with calm satisfac- tion at the scene. There were jaws of "vegetable velvet", ladies with shot-silk dresses and fringed parasols, cham- pagne and Scotch Ale corks flying into the cerulean blue, gypsies dancing round the car- riage wheels telling endlessly optimistic fortunes. In the dis-

ance, over the undulations of emerald turf, the "cherry-red" horses ran. At the far turn, the brightly coloured silks of the jockeys' caps were "like pop- pies, cornflowers and anem- ones" carried away on the wind. At the close of each race, the winner stood steam- ing peacefully in the Royal Enclosure, and a cluster of white pigeons were released into the sky like a shout of purest joy.

It was only later that Gau- tier learned that the pigeons simply carried the listings of the betting odds and results to a hundred murky gambling par- lours across the nation, which sufficed to transform the oc- casion into a rather more utili- tarian event, "a roulette or a Stock Exchange".

After the mixed triumphs of La Ferri, six years elapsed before Gautier next slipped across the Channel. Though his friend's Tunnel was still in- elastically incomplete, the years of middle age had brought in- creasing travelling comforts. The *Chemin de Fer du Nord* already ran as far as Rouen, and together with the regular steam packet services, and the celebrated express from Dover, this combined to bring the two capitals within a single day of each other. By the spring of 1849, after nine months of almost continuous political up- heavals in Paris, Gautier was already restive for London's paradoxes and gloomy, intros- pective charm. His *feuilleton* of May 21 complained of not being able to take advantage of a newly created package tour, which for 175 francs trans- ported you, housed you, took you on guided tours round the Court, the Museums, Rich- mond, Hampton Court Palace, Greenwich, and even brought you back "with all intelligence and care".

A month later, his column began mysteriously. "In this unhappy week of cholera and lazarisation which has just gone by, the theatres of Paris have played nothing. The announcement of some major performance would have brought us back in the twink- ling of an eye despite pesti- lence and politics; for it is on such evil days that Art has need of all its supporters. But the thunder in the street makes the Muses fall silent, and we would have had nothing to do at our posts. So we have profited from this sad congé by accomplishing a voyage to China, no less than the intrepid MacCarthy or Monsieur de Langrenée. This voyage cost us two hours and two shillings."

This unexpectedly exotic expedition turned out to have been a visit by the ferry from Hungerford Bridge, to a Chinese junk moored at St Katharine's Dock. It brought Gautier a new sense of the equivocations of Progress and Empire, almost, very distantly, a sense of menace. Below decks on the junk, he listened distract- edly to a Chinese orchestra, four young men in dark blue silk smocks and pigtail, playing a melancholy composi- tion on drums, gongs, violins and tambourines. Around them the cabin was cluttered with ornate, open-work ivory boxes, porcelain pots, and huge gar- tesque mandrake roots, twisted into fantastical shapes. Gautier meditated on a pile of Chinese coffins in a dark corner, each hewn out of a single log, and painted a glistening vermilion, "stacked there, no doubt, for the benefit of the crew in case of cholera or nostalgia". He was thoughtful. "When a con- cert is finished, one replaces the instrument. In its case: when a life is finished, one slips the man into his coffin: and the rest is silence. . . . But why do violins have cases that resemble the bier? Is it because they have souls and voices and groan like us? An easy paradox, perhaps.

Returning on deck, under the leaden sky of London, Gau- tier gazed curiously at a large lacquer cabinet flitted under the poop of the junk which was curved like some gigantic, grotesque mandrake roots, twisted into fantastical shapes. Gautier meditated on a pile of Chinese coffins in a dark corner, each hewn out of a single log, and painted a glistening vermilion, "stacked there, no doubt, for the benefit of the crew in case of cholera or nostalgia". He was thoughtful. "When a con- cert is finished, one replaces the instrument. In its case: when a life is finished, one slips the man into his coffin: and the rest is silence. . . . But why do violins have cases that resemble the bier? Is it because they have souls and voices and groan like us? An easy paradox, perhaps.

On those days the only serious British activity seemed to be holding funerals. But the London cemetery, so icy, stark, flowerless, and abandoned, with its low grave retaining walls like mummies' sarcophagi, the vague appearance of the human corpse" filled him with nothing but lugubrious imagin- ings, and gave him only an intense desire to remain alive. He turned the dark shape in his hand. But then, finally, was one not a Parisian? He pulled upon a fresh cigar, and stroked the receptive fur of an attendant cat. He thought of the baroque magnificence of the cemetery of Père Lachaise, the swep't alleys, the carved chapels, the bright wreaths of blossom. "How can the English, a nation so absolutely wedded to 'home and com- fort', now can the English resign themselves to being so dreadfully ill at ease in the next world?"

Richard Holmes's Study of Gautier and Nerval is to be published by Oxford University Press next year.

the worshipper that is ironic, and even irreverent. The devotee does not lack faith; but it seems that the idol itself lacks conviction. Perhaps all religions will come to an end through the agnosticism of their gods."

It was a forerunner of a sen- sation he was to have on one of his last visits, in 1851, as he wandered through the imperial splendours of the Great Exhi- bition at the Crystal Palace. Dazzled by the endless displays of jewelled armaments, exotic plants, stuffed elephants, price- less fabrics, and enormous potions of liquid pearl, he yet remained inexplicably unex- cited, doubtful. What he finally remembered was a barred compartment containing several imprisoned Thugsees, the religious stranglers of Durga, the "monstrous wife of Shiva, god of destruction". These men were sullenly engaged in weaving an im- mense carpet, "of evidently European design . . . with a greyish background spotted with black and red ornamen- tation resembling burns and badly cleaned bloodstains. Its appearance was infinitely sinister and funereal. (Indeed it was as ugly as a homemade English carpet.) What torture it must have been for those poor Thugs, instinctive lovers of beautiful patterns and har- monious colours, to sit weaving this abominable tapestry of expiation!" This was the pic- ture that stayed in his mind, from all that palace of wonders. This, and the massive pistons and flywheels of the engineering displays.

Ver in the midst of these later trips, with their thicken- ing associations and sugges- tions, fell a bright shaft. For London unexpectedly and generously provided Gautier with the last great romance of his life, in the elegant shape of a very pretty Italian widow, whom he encountered in Bond Street. Marie Mattei had adopted a smart, fast, modern English style, wore charming white waltzes, talked her own cigarettes in "papalitos", sucked peppermints and sipped tea, as Gautier fondly recorded in his sonnets. He rapidly made her his mistress, and back in Montmartre she trans- formed his "small red bed with its spiral headposts" into a paradisi of sexual blue. And there, with a touch of that renowned English coolness in the heat of battle

... quand le plaisir a brisé nos forces, Nonchalamt entr'acte à la volupé, Nous fumons tous deux en prenant le thé.

But passion, like all things—except perhaps the art that recorded it—was transitory, no permanent gift. As Gautier grew old, and Paris closed round him like a familiar shawl, there came back the memory of the English Sun- day, that Feast of Limbo, when shops and pubs and theatres closed, streets were deserted, and everyone seemed to flee the city by boat or coach or charabanc, until it was like a place of the dead. "One of those cities peopled by inhabi- tants who have turned to stone, as Eastern Tales relate". It haunted him, that vision of melancholy exuding from the very walls, and he wrote wryly: "At such times one longed to have a little por- table chemist's outfit, consist- ing of opium, prussic acid, and acetate of morphine. The thought of suicide is born in the most resolute heart; it is not, indeed, to fiddle with your pistols or to lean over the balustrades of the bridges. . . . There is but one recourse, to make oneself abominably drunk, to fill one's stomach with a blazing sunser of rum- punch. . . . but you have to be English for that."

On those days the only serious British activity seemed to be holding funerals. But the London cemetery, so icy, stark, flowerless, and abandoned, with its low grave retaining walls like mummies' sarcophagi, the vague appearance of the human corpse" filled him with nothing but lugubrious imagin- ings, and gave him only an intense desire to remain alive. He turned the dark shape in his hand. But then, finally, was one not a Parisian? He pulled upon a fresh cigar, and stroked the receptive fur of an attendant cat. He thought of the baroque magnificence of the cemetery of Père Lachaise, the swep't alleys, the carved chapels, the bright wreaths of blossom. "How can the English, a nation so absolutely wedded to 'home and com- fort', now can the English resign themselves to being so dreadfully ill at ease in the next world?"







## SOUTH BANK CONCERT HALLS

Director: John Denton CBE. Tickets: 028 3181. Telephone bookings not accepted on Sundays. Information: 028 3002. For enquiries when postal bookings have already been made: 028 2972. Postal applications must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

## ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

NEW PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA & CHORUS  
David Atherton (conductor), Barbara Menzies, Helen Smith, Robert Tate, John Walker, Choir.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA  
David Atherton (conductor), Claudia Ariza (piano), Barbara Menzies, Helen Smith, Robert Tate, John Walker, Choir.

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Bernard Haitink (conductor), Clifford Curzon (piano), Barbara Menzies, Helen Smith, Robert Tate, John Walker, Choir.

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## ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

TUESDAY, 24 JUNE at 8 p.m.  
NEW PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA  
BRENDL/BARENBOIM

MOZART: Piano Concerto in C minor, K.491  
BRUCKNER: Symphony No. 4 (Romantic)

MONDAY, 7 JULY at 8 p.m.  
NEW PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA  
STANLEY POPE

Overture, Die Meistersinger WAGNER  
Symphony No. 3 in E flat major (New World) BEETHOVEN  
Symphony No. 9 in E minor (New World) DVORAK

WEDNESDAY, 9 JULY, at 7.30 p.m.  
DENNY DAVIS presents  
A Concert performance of Ernest Bloch's opera: sung in French

MACBETH  
RYAN EDWARDS with HELGA DERNESCH

JOHN ANDREW ROBERT LLOYD EDWARD TIPPETT PATRICIA PAYNE  
DAVID CHYME JOHN WILSON EDWARD TIPPETT CHRISTA LEAHMAN  
LESLIE PYDM LUCAS FLETCHER  
NEW PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA  
AMHROSLAN SINGERS

Conductor: JOSÉ SEREBRIER  
Tickets: £5.00, £4.00, £3.00, £2.00, £1.00 from Hall (01-928 3181) & Agents

FRIDAY, 11 JULY at 8 p.m.  
Widely advertised  
First Appearance in London of

TRAJAN POPESCO  
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

ENESCO: Russian Rhapsody No. 1 in A major, Op. 11  
BRAHMS: Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor, Op. 15  
TCHAIKOVSKY: Symphony No. 4 in F minor, Op. 36

MINDRU KATZ piano  
Tickets: £5.00, £4.00, £3.00, £2.00, £1.00 from Hall (01-928 3181) & Agents

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
TOMORROW at 7.15 p.m.  
IMRAT KHAN  
SANKHA CHATTERJEE

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
Sunday, 22 June, 7.15 p.m.  
THE LONDON VIRTUOSI

Michael Debost  
David Lumsden harpsichord  
J. C. Bach Quartet in D Op. 11

PHILOMUSICA  
Conductor: DAVID LITTAUR  
SUNDAY, 29 JUNE at 7.15 p.m.

MOZART: Piano Concerto K.459  
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MOZART: Piano Concerto K.459

PETER KATIN  
Tickets: £1.75, £1.50, £1.25, £1.00, 50p from Box Office (01-928 3181) & Agents

PURCELL ROOM  
LIMESTONE STRING QUARTET with JAMIE KNOTT solo Mozart  
K.459 (The Hunt) in F major, K.459 (The Hunt) in F major

ROYAL ALBERT HALL  
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BOX OFFICE: Monday to Saturday, open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
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TOMORROW at 7.30  
OV. FINGAL'S CAVE - MENDELSSOHN  
GREENSLAVES - art. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

PIANO CONCERTO in A minor - GRIEG  
SCHEHERAZADE - RIMSKY-KORSAKOV  
BOLETO - RAVEL

ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
VILEM TAUSKY  
Tickets: £5.00, £4.00, £3.00, £2.00, £1.00, 50p (01-928 3181) & Agents

VIENNESE NIGHT  
Overture Die Fledermaus Johann Strauss  
A Thousand and One Nights Johann Strauss

NEW PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA  
Conductor: GEORGE SINGER  
Tickets: 45p, 60p, £1.00, £1.50, £2.00, £2.25 (01-928 3181) & Agents

OV. THEIEVING MAGPIE - ROSSINI  
VIOLIN CONCERTO in E minor - MENDELSSOHN

EMPEROR PIANO CONCERTO - BEETHOVEN  
SYMPHONY No. 9 in C 'The Great' - SCHUBERT

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA  
Conductor: DAVID LLOYD-JONES  
STYLIA ROSENBERG ANTONY GOLDSTONE

TCHAIKOVSKY  
Overture Die Fledermaus Johann Strauss  
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A Thousand and One Nights Johann Strauss

## Nothing like a Dame

"Another Australian first", says Barry Humphries about his latest film (Barry McKenzie Holds His Own which opens in four London cinemas this week): "Never before in cinema history has a current affairs Minister appeared in a feature film and been kissed by a man playing the role of a woman".

The man is of course Mr Humphries himself, back in the formidable role of Edna Everage ("a wife, mother and superstar") whom he's been impersonating on and off for many years. The Prime Minister & Mr Gough Whitlam, who in a fleeting guest appearance elevates Mrs Everage to the rank of Dame Edna and not, thinks Humphries, a moment too soon.

"She is, after all, a very great lady, gracious, kindly, wonderfully normal and completely based on the way my Melbourne aunts all of whom love her dearly and think she's modelled on the other five. It's Edna's great certainty, you see: she can grasp the secrets of life itself through the window of Australian domesticity. Television suits her especially well: she appeared on the Russell Harty Show, you know, which lends itself so wonderfully well to monologue, and back in Australia she does phone-ins where people ring with their intimate little problems and she does so much to help them in their hour of need. At the moment she's right into acupuncture, so that she can help her poor suffering husband Norm: she's saved all her knitting needles from Socks For Britain, her most successful wartime campaign, and she can't wait to get started sticking them into him."

"I suppose really she's a cross between Max Miller and Mrs Whitehouse, but she was a very great success in Hong Kong, you know where I played her in cabaret and she used to go and sit with the customers and discuss their little problems ever so cosily."

Mrs Edna Everage (as she then was) first came to life on a couch in 1959 when Barry Humphries, then reading English for his University of Melbourne degree, was trying to live up to a student tour of Twelfth Night, an evening's journey has long been a preoccupation of his - on one celebrated occasion he persuaded a friend to put his leg in a plaster cast so that he could proceed to kick him mercilessly in full view of other and increasingly disturbed passengers, who on another occasion he filled a bus-stop litter bin with chicken and champagne, covered it over with old newspaper and then reappeared in the guise of a tramp to sort through the rubbish before finding it, once again to the amazement of several bystanders.

Those days, however, are long gone: in 1959 Mr Humphries forsook Melbourne for London where pending better employment he made a living by removing faulty blocks of raspberry ripple from the conveyor belt of a factory in Action. Then he got work as an actor in two Lionel Bart musicals, first *Oliver!* (as the undertaker) and then *Maggie May*.

"I had to fall down a cliff face before they'd let me out of *Oliver!*, but I knew then that I really wanted to do cabaret and Peter Cook put me into his Establishment club soon after *Lenny Bruce*: I've never really known which of it was the audience liked less. But it was Cook who also gave a start to the Barry McKenzie comic strip: he introduced me to the cartoonist Nicholas Garland, who's a New Zealander or 'closer Aussie' as I prefer to think of him, and we wrote the strip with a few breaks right up to 1973 when *Private Eye* dropped it. Ever since then we've been awaiting offers from other magazines like the *Economist* but somehow they don't seem terribly keen. Perhaps it's the language."

In the meantime Mr Humphries has turned his strip (once subtitled "Alice in Chunderland") into two full-length feature films, the first of which



Barry Humphries and Barry Crocker as Edna and Barry

was financed by the Australian Government: "We told them it was all about a clean-living Australian who shamed the Poms with his wholesome outdoor values. On the strength of that they gave us a grant of £125,000 without asking any more questions until we got to the airport on our way to film it in Europe. There, an accountant from the Development Corporation rushed up to us and said he hoped there'd be no colloquialisms in the script."

The first film got all of its money back in eight weeks and has since grossed over £1m; nevertheless, and perhaps because of the "colloquialisms", the second film has had to be made without government help but with the private money of an Australian producer referred to (since it happens to be his name) as Mr Grundy who is best known as the maker of several household quiz shows on Australian television. He put up just over £200,000 and has every expectation of getting it back from Australian showings alone. But what do the natives themselves make of the mythical Barry and his Aunt Edna?

"Well, there are obviously a few things that all the references to 'chundering' and 'raw prawns' are not doing the Australian image much good abroad; Qantas refused to let us film Barry getting on to their aircraft because they

said they didn't carry that type of person as a passenger. But I think Edna is more acceptable, if only because she's a more obvious music hall figure; at the moment I've a one-man show called 'At Least You Can Say You've Seen It' which I'm hoping someone will stage over here, and Edna of course features in that, still handling out the gladdies and working on her poetry."

But Mr Humphries is still keen to establish that his is not just another drag act, and Edna has indeed now acquired a kind of manic life of her own, whether adding Australia's other First Lady on her choice of clothing or worrying about the state of her beloved nation. But is Mr Humphries worried that Edna may be about to take him over entirely? "No; after all, Bruce Beresford who directs the McKenzie films and Barry Crocker who plays Barry do their best to keep her in her place, and I know that if ever I found myself playing her just for the sake of a few extra quid I'd give her up. But not just yet: she's such wonderful therapy for all my aggression. Admittedly in Australia I don't get asked to play many other parts; but that's why I came back to London for a while - here there's always the chance, you know, that Jonathan Miller will see me as Portia."

Sheridan Morley

## A joyous occasion

The Knight of the Burning Pestle  
Greenwich

Irving Wardle

Just what Beaumont and Fletcher's comedy is doing in a season otherwise devoted to James Saunders escapes me, but it certainly brings the Greenwich "Charades" to a rousing finale.

Thanks to several slapdash productions over the past few years one is inclined to be wary of Jacobean comedies, particularly those like *The Knight of the Burning Pestle* that have everything from burlesque death scenes to Pirandellian tricks with reality. All too often you find casts strenuously clanking to glum speeches as if through a double-glazed fourth wall. But not this time. It is an extremely complex piece to stage, but Sam Walters's production

makes light of the technical obstacles and secures a warm and genuine contact between the company and the house.

The text is not without topical echoes. But when the Citizen interrupts the show to say, "Must I have and he shall do admirable things", only someone from Conservative Central Office could identify with him. Like the intrusion of his apprentice, Rafe, into the play, the instant plot adaptation with which the actors slip in and out of their roles when the Citizen and his wife start handing out sweets and helpful advice, the first interruption is wildly improbable. Like so many other things in the play it ought not to work; but it does, thanks to the sheer good will the writing produces, and the sense that there are more interesting things in life than can be shown through the mediated play of a conventionally structured play.

At Greenwich it is acceptable for the two intruders sometimes to be seasoned players and sometimes to mistake the show

for reality. What remains constant in the performance of Robert McBain and Linda Polan is their affection for Rafe; and by the end all their absurdities are displaced by family and civic loyalty.

Music is very important in healing the play's contradictions, and Nola York has supplied guitar numbers that nicely match the smooth flow of Beaumont's verses. One also grows familiar with the cast in the double role of the characters: Petra Markham, in boy's clothes, announcing her arrival in a beard and then reappearing still sporting a moustache; Linda Marlowe as a goldspectled prompter, then sweeping on as the languorous Princess Pomponia. There is also Gordon Reid's Rafe, the Grocer Errand wearing his own fantastic adventures through the burndrum drama of the London of the time. It is a joyous occasion, set (by Mary Moore) against architectural drawings of the City that transpose the Jacobean story into a wider London context.

## Unrewarding relationships

Netherlands Dance Theatre  
Sadler's Wells

John Percival

The main item on the second of Netherlands Dance Theatre's programmes at the Wells is another of William Katz's unusual deors. This one consists mainly of brightly coloured rags sewn into curtains and overalls, creating at first an effect (not sustained) of an eastern caravan or bazaar. It is strikingly pretty, but I am not sure that it is enough to hold the attention for the half-hour or so that *Eclipse* lasts.

There are some distractions. Burt Alcantara has prepared a soundtrack including what sound like waves, seagulls, bombs and car crashes, all on a tape clearly suffering from acute bronchitis. It is played blaringly loud. I am told that exposure to loud noises diminishes the sexual drive, which perhaps explains the half-hearted air of the orgy taking place simultaneously.

The movement, inchoate and eccentric, is staged by Louis Falco, who created some good ballets before he turned his energies to "a freedom of the mind which in reality would appear absurd" - his definition, not mine. A central couple have a heavy-breathing but unrewarding relationship. They repeatedly stare at each other with the open-mouthed expression customary in Beatrice films before full frontal nudity was discovered. Mea Venema and Juan Antonio deserve credit for managing this without looking embarrassed.

The rest of the cast lay lino and move the furniture, then stay to join the party. At the climax I counted two male couples, one female and one mixed; that leaves one member of the cast unaccounted for, probably the hero, who had a very sad fate.

Bisexuality emerged as the one continuing theme of the programme. The due in Jerome Robbins's *Movies* include all possible combinations of male and female, but although Robbins describes it as a baller in silence about relationships, the confrontation appears purely formal. Whether because the baller has outlived its time, or from some want of urgency in the dancing, it proved less gripping than earlier productions.

Everyone with anyone might have been the motto also in *Juice*, a slight but pleasing little jazz number with choreography by Margo Sappington, hitherto known in London only as "lur dancin' in Oh, Calcutta" when performing the dancers' number in and out of a hummock. Michael Kamen's jazz score is lively.

## Jean Fonda

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Thomas Walker

The half-time prognosis at Jean Fonda's piano recital on Thursday at Queen Elizabeth Hall was bad indeed. M Fonda had leapt at Chopin's F sharp minor *Polska* with an aggressiveness reminiscent of a surprise attack. But once said Alfred Brendel make on the Schubert C minor Sonata, but there the resemblance ended.

And, although it might be said that the pianist mered out

## Death in Venice

Aldeburgh Festival

Joan Chissell

There was a tremendous ovation for Britten after Thursday's *Death in Venice*, the first of two performances in The Matings, where atmospheric claustrophobia, like the self-probings of the tortured Aschenbach, make their mark more potently than in larger houses.

Hardly ever off-stage, Peter Pears again sustains this arduous central role with tireless fluency of voice, his style

considerable punishment to his adversary, I am loath to admit that he won.

Schumann's *Faschingschwank aus Wien* is not a piece one hears every day. Had it been performed with conviction it would have made an enticing programme choice. Quite apart from the extended aleatory interpolation in the finale and many other lapses, the muddling and the ill-calculated rubato (petty larceny rather than grand, but the man is clearly a recidivist), the genial humour of this exuberant work was missed.

One saw instead the image of a hapless Frenchman wander-

ing about Vienna at carnival time, unable to join in the fun for want of fluency in German.

A pause helped. M Fonda's reading of Liszt's *Funeralles* and *Souires de Vieme* were respectable enough, and even showed glimmers of insight. But it was in Kabalevsky's Third Sonata that he most nearly proved his mettle. Its outer movements slavishly re-work the motor rhythms and wrong notes of Prokofiev, with perhaps a hint of *Mahogany* ("Moon of Alabama") in the finale. The whole seemed bureaucratic and even a bit childish, but M Fonda responded to it eagerly.

The ECO played as well under Stuart Bedford's direction as the remaining cast sang and came alive (producer Colin Graham), though amplification made the off-stage voice of Apollo (James Bowman) uncomfortably hoaty.

Among other idiosyncrasies Alan Caiger-Smith uses an exceedingly unusual wood-fired kiln, using rejects from the local bat willows, which produces equally unusual tin-glaze colours. His smoke lustres are made by a method that he had to invent for himself, since no full technical description of the process has ever been recorded, not even by William de Morgan.

## Personal pottery

An exhibition of pottery that is an island on its own in contemporary British pottery will be shown at the Salix gallery, Windsor, from June 23 to June 28. The technique of Alan Caiger-Smith at his Aldermaston Pottery, based on the use of glazes whitened with tin

oxide which provide the ground for painted decoration, is hardly used in any other workshop.

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## Wigmore Hall

William Lyne 36













## Pompidou's gift for sorting out the fundamentals

In trying to define the nature of the world, Georges Pompidou in the field of international economic problems, one is tempted to ask—starting from the standpoint of the man himself rather than of the problems which he faced—what subjects spontaneously prompted his interest, in what way he made the deepest mark on the policy of France, in short, what part did his personality play in his approach.

It has sometimes been suggested that M. Pompidou was essentially a manager. This was not the case: he was not naturally drawn to economic problems. They interested him to the extent that he considered them very important. But his heart was not there. His expertise of banking had not, in this respect, made a deep impression on him, save by giving him an experience of men and a field of view which completed the training he had acquired both at the service of General de Gaulle, and at the Council d'Etat; or again, further back, when he exercised his first profession, that of teacher.

I have always noted that he had for too great a concern for properties and a respect for expertise to probe the detail of the administration of this or that minister. That is to say it would be rather futile to try to make a distinction in the economic field between the action of the President and that of M. Giscard d'Estaing who was, during the whole of his time at the Elysée, the Minister of Economy and Finance. In fact, President Pompidou was less attracted by these matters than, for instance, by military problems, or those of education and culture.

M. Pompidou made no greater mark on his time in difficult circumstances than in the despatch of current affairs.

As Prime Minister to General de Gaulle, he was not only the regime but also the authority of the State and its very notion. As President of the Republic, he laid down without hesitation the basic guidelines of the régime, acting quickly to new situations like that created by the floating of the dollar in August, 1971.

This spirit of decision in difficult circumstances went hand in hand with tenacity, virtue with which he is more generally credited. He placed this tenacity at the service of two essential ideas: a rapid growth of the French economy and the development of European unity.

Finally, this indefatigable worker had one fundamental gift for a statesman: that of shedding new light on problems already examined a hundred times by technicians or politicians, and of distinguishing at a glance what in a problem was essential from what was merely important.

Perhaps this is what one describes after the event as common sense. But when this quality leads one to define above all the way a problem should be set out, and therefore solved, it acquires additional dimensions which are singularly important: in the field of economic affairs. One finds examples of this new and original manner of presenting a problem in M. Pompidou's statements on the role of gold in the transactions between central banks, and in the way in which he fitted the problem of the agricultural Common Market into a world context.

After the European conferences of Paris and Dublin, which marked a substantial progress towards the pragmatic creation of a European executive, it is not without interest to examine how and in what directions President Pompidou, as the heir of Gaullism but a man anxious to assert his personal convictions, was able to give a privileged role to the European policy of France.

Indeed M. Pompidou never ceased, with a tenacity which his aversion for bombast led one to underestimate, and in spite of an increasingly unfavourable international environment, notably in the monetary field, to devote himself to the construction of Europe. I shall attempt to illustrate this attitude of mind by examining his monetary conceptions, which were

dominated by the constant search for a monetary system, very substantially disappointed—of a monetary organization of Europe, in spite of the rise in world perils.

Georges Pompidou did not believe that France was called upon to play a major role in the monetary field. One is compelled to admit moreover that even when our country stood at the height of its relative power, it never in these affairs played a part consonant with its diplomatic or even economic weight.

If M. Pompidou wished to assert French conceptions in the international monetary field, his concern was essentially political. He was firmly convinced that there was no valid international monetary system without fixed parities and that "there are no fixed parities save in relation to something which is free from the manipulations of one and all, that is to say gold."

He also believed, true in this to General de Gaulle, that distortions of the world monetary system had consequences on the equilibrium of the world which were hardly tolerable.

The international monetary system, such as it was applied, must, in his view, lead sooner or later to generalized inflation which in some countries would create balance of payments deficits, and as a consequence, depression and protectionism, sapping the bases of Western civilization.

There was doubtless underlying his conception a certain pessimism, illustrated by this idea that gold could not be eliminated from the international monetary system, as it stood for an element of external compulsion, a compulsion necessary to the extent that man was not wise enough to set up rational and abstract systems in its place.

The Azores conference of December, 1971, was, as everyone knows, essentially a monetary consultation between President Nixon and President Pompidou. On December 13 and 14, they had several private meetings, in which they were joined by M. Giscard d'Estaing and Mr. Connally. The success of this conference made it possible for the ministers of the ten to work out a redrafting of the dollar—also, very provisional—of a new scale of parities at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington a few days later—including something which was a surprise to many people, a devaluation of the dollar.

It is certain that the two main protagonists of the Azores "summit" were determined to reach agreement. Mr. Nixon because he considered it desirable to end a situation of tension; M. Pompidou, because he was never anti-American. But also because he considered that our two-tier exchange control system, based on a two-tier foreign exchange market, would collapse if the crisis were to be prolonged.

**Jean-René Bernard**  
This is a condensed version of three articles that appeared in Le Monde. The author was a close adviser to President Pompidou for many years.



Story says we'll have to go to Princeton with the children...

## Where crash helmets and life jackets are the order of the day

### Sportsview

Although Britain might appear to be making up the numbers in some of the more conventional sporting arenas, it is cheering to know that a week away from the World Wild Water Racing Championships, we are up there with the favourites despite all the usual home-grown difficulties in triplicate, lack of money, facilities, and national disenchantment.

And in a sport where crash helmets and life jackets are the dress of the day, better news still is that it's our ladies' team which is being quietly tipped to make a big splash and perhaps come up clutching gold.

The 14 canoeists of Great Britain, among them two husband and wife teams, are already in Yugoslavia preparing for the start, on June 23, of the championships which are being held on the River Radika, 100 kilometres from Skopje. Hitherto, slalom has always been the main event in world championship and Olympics but in the last few years rapid river racing has swiftly improved its status to the point where, this year, it scarce level and is certain to finish in the lead driven along by all the most appealing ingredients, speed, danger, and spectacular novelty.

For David Mitchell, of Vicar's Cross, near Chester, the team's most experienced canoeist, this will be his sixth world championship. "The Wild River race is exactly that," he said, "it's a five to six mile course on a very fast flowing river, hairy rapids one after the other, massive boulders and drops of six to eight feet; big curling waves which drive you onto rocks. If you are any good, you don't turn over or fall out. But if you have a bit of bad luck then it can take a couple of miles before they can drag you out."

Home waters for Mitchell have been slalom champion for eight years, four years rapid river racing champion, is the gentle River Dee, which at least has a weir and a few salmon steps to negotiate. "Hopeless and impossible training conditions," they might be, but marginally better than those of this year's joint champion Norman Jackson, from Grappenhall, Warrington. He has been doing most of his hard work on the Bridgewater canal which bubbles and ferments occasionally, but moves only when disturbed by high

winds and is not famous for its waterfalls or rocky obstacles. Jackson was still good enough to beat the reigning world champion, Jean Pierre Burry of Belgium, recently. By chasing up to Scotland and across to Wales at week-ends with a lot of sprinting on Britain's backwaters, the men's team believe they are well enough equipped to challenge for a bronze medal with the eastern block countries their main rivals.

According to those who know about these things, the West Germans are likely to prove the ladies' most powerful opponents. Pauline Goodwin, whose husband, John, is competing in the Canadian slalom event—that's the one where you kneel and paddle—is the highest ranked British woman, at St. 11th of her. "The three of us in the team have been able to train together a lot," she said, "because one of the girls, Eilary Peacock moved job and house so that she could be

near Chester". The Goodwins live in Newcastle under Lyme. David Mitchell's wife, Peggy, originally from New Hampshire, is the other member of the team. "We met in Italy in the world championships four years ago when I was representing America. I was messing around in the slalom, he was messing around in the slalom, and one thing led to another."

It's going to be quite a family affair in Yugoslavia," she will say. My two brothers will be there. One of them designed my canoe and Dave made the paddle. The rest is up to me."

Team manager is Stan Cooper, a lieutenant in the Army Physical Training Corps based in Shrewsbury, and for three years a member of the British team. "The biggest problem in running an international team is money. A grant from the Sports Council will cover about two-thirds of the air fare. After that, we're on our own. Sponsorship fell by the wayside because the trade names on canoes and track suits. Local clubs have done their best with sponsored paddles and Leeds raised a

thousand pounds. But it will cost each team member about £100 just to represent Britain, plus loss of earnings of course. "Our original intention was to camp in Yugoslavia to save money. But the organizing authorities won't allow it, so we'll be in official accommodation but doing our own cooking."

Another barrier to the development of canoeing is the massed ranks of Britain's No 1 participant sport, angling. Riverside words and even first-cuffs have been exchanged. It's unfortunate for the canoeists that the best training areas for Wild water activities are also the best salmon fishing territory where anglers hold their whip hand, legally and financially. "However, the fishermen of Bala and Llangollen have been very kind to us," Lt. Cooper points out. Their kindness, in fact, has extended as far as allowing the River Tryweryn, near Bala, to be turned into a course of championship length with continuous rapids and waterfalls by releasing water from a reservoir near the river's source.

Gerry Harrison



## The oily smell of corruption that finally put Teapot Dome into American folklore

Talk of bribery and corruption, such as the Northrop Corporation's recent admissions and most Americans immediately think of Teapot Dome. Not that it was the most scandalous event of the Harding Administration. While the President made love to his girl friend in an anteroom of the office, the Director of the Veterans' Bureau pillaged his hospitals, the Custodian of Alien Property sold German chemical patents to the highest bidder, and under the Attorney General hawked pardons and liquor permits among his political friends.

Teapot Dome may have passed into the folklore because of its pleasant and unusual name. It was in fact an eroded sandstone rock shaped somewhat like a teapot perched over a dome of oil north of Casper, Wyoming. With two other oilfields in California, Elk Hills and Buena Vista Hills, it had been set aside as an oil reserve for the US Navy. They were then secretly leased to two oil magnates by Mr. Albert Fall, the Secretary of the Interior, who received about \$400,000 in bribes.

Mr. Fall afterwards insisted that he would have vased the oilfields anyway. He only accepted the gifts because he was several years behind with his income tax and he wanted to improve his Three Rivers ranch in New Mexico. That was hardly persuasive, but in theory at least, the navy was not being robbed. The admirals had long wanted reserve oil tanks on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and at Pearl Harbour, and not under the ground, but Congress had always refused to appropriate the money. Moreover, there was a danger that the oil would be drained away by pumping in adjacent fields. Mr. Fall worked out a barter scheme. In exchange for a 20-year lease, Mr. H. F. Sinclair, one of the oil men, agreed to pay royalties in the form of certificates which could be exchanged for oil at seaports, and he would also build the tanks wherever the navy wanted them.

This permitted Mr. Fall to keep the lease secret at the grounds of national security, but the press soon got on to it. One paper sold its silence for

\$250,000 and another was forced into bankruptcy. A wildcatter moved in with a rig, and Mr. Fall used the royalties to evict him. An extraordinary story, but as one of Mr. Sinclair's associates said: "Oil was money, and the struggle for it was earnest and relentless." It certainly was. Mr. Sinclair made \$25m in stock manipulation without pumping a gallon out of the ground.

Mr. Fall eventually went to prison. President Harding tried to escape the gathering storm by touring Alaska, and died of pneumonia poisoning in San Francisco. The days of the Ohio Gang which had engineered Mr. Harding's nomination at the Republican National Convention in a smoke-filled room (a phrase which passed into the language) were over.

The United States eventually put its own house in order, which it became rather good at if only because a succession of Falls and Sinclairs provided constant practice, but oil has since become even bigger money. Hence Northrop's admitted bribes to two Saudi Arabian generals, an Iranian tax

officer and an Indonesian politician.

Americans, however, are not the only people who have tried to bribe themselves into lucrative orders from oil-rich and other states. No large firm, international or whatever its nationality, will freely admit it for obvious reasons, but there are many countries where customers, despite Emerson, will not beat a path to your door if you make a better mousetrap—or airplane, power plant or car assembly line—than does your neighbour.

Bribery is a way of life in many countries. It is not always blatant. In some capitals it is necessary to appoint a relative of the ruler or prime minister to act as agent. He does little or nothing except to make the bribe respectable, but it produces orders.

In this competitive world bribery can also become a higher form of patriotism. It is all very sad, but some businessmen comfort themselves with an historical view. It goes something like this. Newly independent countries tend to be corrupt because government

was earlier an alien body to which local citizens did not owe loyalty. This hardly explains corrupt independent governments or what appears to be increasing corruption in Britain, the oldest country in the world in terms of continuing political institutions.

Clearly there are different reasons for bribery and corruption. Teapot Dome cannot be entirely explained by Mr. Fall's unpaid taxes. He really believed in laissez-faire. He saw himself as a rugged individualist who had opened up the West in spite of government and fancy moralistic East coast ideas.

Again this does not explain Messrs Poulson and Forthing. As Mr. Patrick Marubani recently wrote in these columns, the lingering smell of corruption must be resolutely traced back to the source, but one cannot be too censorious about what happens abroad. We can hope to clean up these little islands, but not the world, and that includes communist countries as well as the newly oil-rich and the United States.

Louis Heren

## Unmistakably Dizzy, hurling out his thunderbolts

Leaders in *The Times* are traditionally anonymous, the wisdom of the newspaper. To adapt Horace, when the sky thunders, we know that the Thunderer has spoken; but never which individual hand has hurled this latest lovebolt. Of course, since 1957, we have kept a private register of who wrote what leader; and, of course, there are idiosyncrasies of style and hobby-horse that sometimes enable him who runs candidly to read the particular author behind the measured prose.

We have now discovered, beyond reasonable doubt, that Benjamin Disraeli wrote three leaders for *The Times* in August, 1836. It is a remarkable discovery, partly because it is surprising to find the brilliant young Tory eagle writing leaders for a paper, that was generally Whiggish at that period. What is more remarkable, if indeed not unprecedented, is to find an outside contributor rather than a staff man composing that Holy of Holies of *The Times*, its leader column.

The Disraeli leaders came to light during a systematic search of other archives being conducted by Mr. Gordon Phillips, the Archivist of *The Times*. Like other such travails, this is a laborious process that occasionally lands a big catch. For example, the Blackwood papers in the National Library of Scotland yielded scores of letters from Delane, the Clarendon papers at the Bodleian yielded a rich haul of Delane and Barnes letters, some of them significant and alarming in that they show a statesman seeking advice from an editor on important government business. Mr. Phillips has now hit the jackpot again by discovering the evidence for Dizzy's leader-writing in the Hughenden papers at Disraeli's family home near High Wycombe.

It has long been known that Disraeli was a frequent contributor of articles to *The Times* between 1836 and 1839 under dif-

ferent incognito. Thomas Barnes, the editor, in his 30s, was impressed and diverted by his brilliant young contributor, aged 30. He was also alarmed by his dangerous proclivity to "personalities", and wrote to him: "You have a most surprising disinclination for the name of Disraeli."

In the first half of 1836 Barnes and Disraeli were writing to each other almost daily: we have more than 50 letters from Disraeli in *The Times* archive. *The Times* published a series of sarcastic, highly libellous letters to statesmen signed "Runnymede", which had a prodigious success and were published in book form. *The Times* also published in 1836 a series of allegorical political articles called *A New Romance of Sindbad the Sailor* by Disraeli, again incognito. They were less successful. At the same time he was reviewing books for the paper, and writing pompous verses, which Barnes published without much enthusiasm, and criticized as not supplying the best field for Disraeli's pen.

G. E. Buckle, editor of *The Times* from 1834 to 1842, wrote in his voluminous life of Disraeli that Dizzy also wrote leaders for the paper. But there was no other record to support his improbable assertion. Now there is. In the Hughenden archive one section preserves Disraeli's writings for *The Times*, including these three leaders.

One can speculate that in August *The Times* leader writers laid down their thunderbolts, as even leader writers will in August, and went on holiday. Barnes engaged his young star as a holiday relief. The style of the leaders is unmistakably Dizzy, full of brilliant antitheses, high-flown sentiment, savage "personalities", and a young man's showing off with words, ideas, and obscure allusion. Forsooth, hostile yclep'ds and references to Poliorcetes in a rush-hour congestion of grandiloquent rhetoric.

On Monday, August 1, Disraeli was out about a stage in the contemporary struggle for municipal reform. His thunderous peroration, containing enough words to rate as a Force 10 gale in Bernard Levin's wind-scale, begins: "And we, who have fought the battle of the English people under all circumstances and at all seasons, were accused by short-sighted politicians and eager-mouthed traitors of deserting the great cause of civil and religious liberty because we opposed these men—because we looked askew at the toleration of a monk's cowl and the freedom of a Jacobin's cap—because, overtopping the mists and heats of party, 'We saw, as from a tower, the end of all.'"

It carries on in the same vein for clauses measureless to man.

On August 18, Disraeli wrote a preposterous puff of a leader buttering up King William IV, foreshadowing his later dexterity at spreading flattery on Victoria with a trowel: "... The English people recognize with delight that their beloved Monarch is the most important and influential individual in the country, and that their renowned and ancient monarchy is a most powerful section of the State."

On the next day he savaged Lord Melbourne's administration at the close of the parliamentary session: "... It is not Lord Viscount Melbourne, with all his loose-tongued and ill-conditioned ribaldry, that will persuade us he knows more than ourselves of the heart and soul of the English nation. We tell him the core of his political body is rotten, its foundation sand, and its days numbered."

There thunders the true, the blushing Disraeli, briefly *The Times* leader writer until he descended from Olympus to more mundane occupations.

Philip Howard



Benjamin Disraeli: as a holiday relief leader writer he was the young star, showing off with words, ideas, allusions.

George Hutchin

## A bleak week for the club

Quite frankly (as Minister might say never belonged to a beaver, the well-known club in Westminster, is no sense in trying to join it. I am not even if it would have me ever drunk enough for membership I might be blackballed. Poor Sir Arnold We when he tried to join.

It is easy to in entries in the book: No, No, No, pained by every king. "Dangerous in court or personal." "Recklessly detach blatant tendency to dedness." "Liable to occasion, or at least from attacking." On measured charge: moderate who c depends upon to campaign of sustenance, however ill-congenial to most of

I cannot claim, I privy to the club's transactions, or pl know a good ma member, however, tell quite a lot outward behaviour.

Wilsonbushers, I explain, is still one flourishing club i when so few are real. The ship has increased since the year, and indeed r after the abrupt ter that popular into three-day workin Although political, i makes non-party, th allyparty. While To the majority, the l ment is not to be either in numbers o including as it does ment of ministers peers.

But the club has back in the past we say, no one has k where to turn for a startling phrase, i buted to Mr Michae members have bee wits' end.

## A slight case of hysteria

Disoriented by the the referendum they have become terical, falling victim of the mos character in outbur "A triumph for Minister". Some i ordered that they found merit in the process as an ins government.

Nor have the changes lived up to nation. Many were them for relief, o dergo yet another boomers have pro resilient in the ca some are believed tough as old boots, an expression coined speech-writer.

They are resour Already, I gather, as Mr Patrick Marubani recently wrote in these columns, the lingering smell of corruption must be resolutely traced back to the source, but one cannot be too censorious about what happens abroad. We can hope to clean up these little islands, but not the world, and that includes communist countries as well as the newly oil-rich and the United States.

One stratagem to to gain favour is ceived assault, of duration, on the economic measures, which are usually required, as the club quick to recognize.

Equipped with the icent crystal ball, o club's most precious members o bashers usually c ahead of the gan their celebrated m render. In Englis warned you."

Although they hav badly in recess days probably recover. O feared in some quart

Enough of Wilsonbu us turn for a chany old friend Edward H

Many Tories have with him this week been charged with regard or consei successor, Mrs Thatcher complimented hi House of Commons o in the referendum head in hand, stony made no acknowledge conservative. Mrs understandably p behaviour, which the to a want of generosi ple courtesy. But th glib an explanation.

After thinking abou fully, not to say s cult. I have the as Heath's hearing was ly impaired after furious spell on it wave, and his vision tarily blurred. He ne nor heard Mrs Nothing else can ac his conduct. The seaf as Sir Walter Elliot is Persuasion. "Eg man's youth and vigi horribly."

Mr Heath needs warning. He may be t of overdoing things. © Times Newspapers





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## BREZHNEV STILL CONFIDENT

A public appearance by Mr. Brezhnev is now an event because the widespread impression is that his health is failing and that he will not be much longer in the world. His speech yesterday was significant for that than the content. His proposal on weapons looks at first sight like a political gesture of defiance than an invitation to his negotiations.

It is impossible to say how long this confidence is, as frequently given visitors impression of being tired, has been disappearing from public eye for longer periods, there is a tendency for making a time to freeze up time to time in a way that is not as firmly held as it was.

There is, however, no sign of imminent change of policy or a palace revolution. Mr. Brezhnev gives every impression of expecting that if his health is out he will play the star at the party congress in early next year. Probably he who are around him are not to accept this only use there is no obvious successor and because they realize good it would be for done and foreign confidence in Soviet Union could achieve first orderly transfer of power without a leader in honour or disgrace. Difficulties likely to arise only if Mr. Brezhnev refuses to step down in his colleagues think that time is ripe, or if his health is before a decision has been made on the succession.

So far there are no signs that this decision has been made, which is hardly surprising. In the Soviet Union it is even more difficult to choose a new party leader than it is in the West, and if there is one area in which Mr. Brezhnev has excelled it has been party management. He has been party manager. He has probably never had a really clear moment of questioning supporters in the Politburo. He has had to persuade, argue and cajole, and pick off his opponents one by one. But for this reason, among others, he has not been able to groom an undisputed successor.

For the West the main thing that matters is whether there is likely to be a sharp change of policy if Mr. Brezhnev weakens or goes. On the whole it seems unlikely. Mr. Brezhnev learnt from the mistakes of Mr. Khrushchev. He has been very conscious that the foundation of his power is the party apparatus, which is generally against rapid change. A successor would have to acknowledge the same reality.

There are, of course, competing tendencies even within the apparatus. There are pressure groups for heavy industry and military spending, and others in favour of consumer goods. There are people who feel that détente with the West threatens the internal stability of the Soviet empire, or denies the Soviet Union the chance of making gains abroad, especially now that the West appears weaker. Mr. Brezhnev has contained these groups partly by making détente seem all things to all people.

For the hardliners it is a tactic for softening up the West. For the modernizers it is the door to western technology. For liberalizers it might at one time have included greater cultural freedom, but the counter-pressures were too great.

A successor to Mr. Brezhnev might strike a slightly different balance or shift his priorities in one direction or another, but radical internal change would be limited by the vested interests of the apparatus while radical changes in foreign policy would jeopardize the gains which the present policy has brought.

The greatest temptation would be to press harder on places where the West is vulnerable. But almost any Russian leader is very likely to do this if he feels he can get away with it. Even Mr. Brezhnev has not been motivated by any intrinsic benevolence towards the West but by a cautious and realistic assessment of his country's interests. It would be foolish to expect anything else of him or his successor.

To this extent, and unless the next Soviet leader is a fool, which is unlikely, the future of Soviet policy will be influenced as much by the West as by the balance of power in the Politburo. Any Soviet leader who feels he can gain advantage without penalty is almost bound to try. It is in the Russian tradition as well as in the nature of politics to test pressure against counter-pressure. Appeals for "restraint" are unrealistic unless coupled with appeals to self-interest.

## AST AND FUTURE IN ITALY'S ELECTIONS

election being held in Italy now is not technically a general election, and perhaps for that reason has not attracted a deal of attention outside Italy. It is not parliament that is renewed but the regional, provincial and municipal councils.

This means, however, that Italian voters are called to the polls at once and both political parties and the press treating the occasion as of it, indeed almost decisive, importance. (That it is not really decisive would be a really decided anything in since 1948.)

It would be nice to think that this was because the regional elections set up in 1970 had led to genuine centres of power, filling the vacuum left by almost total paralysis of the central state. There are certainly some who believe that this is the case, such as the former president of the Lombard region, or Piero Bassetti, who came on the scene two days ago to argue merits of a Europe based on nations rather than on nations. Many Italians have felt that the degeneration of Italian state, first into fascism now into an expensive, corrupt and thoroughly ineffective bureaucracy. The chronic underdevelopment of the Mezzogiorno or southern economic hegemony and the social backwardness of the North under largely political rule have reinforced the view that nineteenth-century unification of Italy was a fraud and a lie, which perhaps should not have been attempted at all and which now needs to be at least partially reversed.

It is not that, as Signor Bassetti

himself is the first to admit. Though he claims to have had some success in persuading firms, trade unions, and even other regions to deal with his authority in Milan rather than with the Rome bureaucracy, he is not now seeking reelection as regional president because he believes there is a further battle to be fought in the national parliament before the regions can obtain any really decisive powers. And what is exciting the parties and the press about this election is not the control of the regional and local authorities but the share of the total poll which each party will obtain.

Immediately at stake is the power of Senator Amintore Fanfani, the Secretary of the Christian Democrat party and at present undoubtedly the most powerful man in Italy although he holds no office in the state. Once the architect of the Centre-Left coalition, he has lately been shifting the axis of his party very deliberately to the right. It was very much his personal decision last year to compel the party to an all-out struggle for the abolition of the divorce law. The looked like a bad mistake when the electorate voted to keep divorce, by an unexpectedly large majority. But it can now be seen as part of a longer-term operation akin to President Nixon's "southern strategy". The votes against divorce were cast by supporters of the neo-fascist Movimento Sociale Italiano, as well as Christian Democrats. Senator Fanfani hopes that many of these voters will stick with Christian Democracy tomorrow, especially now that the MSI has been discredited by the publicity given to a whole series of right-wing terrorist outrages.

Fifty-one per cent of the

electorate voted against divorce last year. If anything like that percentage were to vote Christian Democrat on Sunday it would be a fantastic success for Senator Fanfani, since the usual Christian Democrat score is around 38 per cent. In fact everyone expects the Christian Democrats to lose more voters on their left than they gain on their right—even though they will probably gain from the right-wing anti-clerical parties (Liberals and Social Democrats) as well as from the MSI. Senator Fanfani himself has encouraged this expectation, declaring that he will regard anything over 35 per cent as a victory. To set improbably high targets for your opponents is of course a well-known propaganda technique, and it is by no means certain that his rivals within Christian Democracy (who are legion) will let him get away with it.

The longer-term issues are whether Christian Democracy is to remain the dominant party in Italy, and whether the Communists are on the way to becoming an indispensable partner in government. Senator Fanfani treats these two issues as being one and the same, but this is not how the Socialists see it. They reserve the right to form coalitions with the Communists at the local and regional levels (where Communists are generally acknowledged to be efficient and honest administrators), but at the national level they ask only for a greater share of power within the present coalition. Some Christian Democrat leaders (probably including the prime minister, Signor Aldo Moro) would favour this, and it would probably serve Italy better than the return to cold war politics on which Senator Fanfani seems intent.

## SKS IN THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE

once has been accumulating over the past few years of a steady decline in the amount of ozone in the upper part of the atmosphere. The sun are far from clear but need to understand the process of this depletion is vital. It is the region of atmosphere where the bulk of ultraviolet radiation from the sun is filtered by a very subtle chemical in which ozone plays the role. Without this protective surface of the Earth would become unsuitable for growing crops and the levels of radiation reaching the ground would provoke an increase in cancer, among other things. It is possible that the change in ozone layer is an irreversible phenomenon precipitated by man-made pollution. Various studies have been made of the effect of high flying aircraft on the atmosphere. But the past two or three years of research have been pointing towards a more insidious cause; this is a group of referred to as fluorocarbons that are used in the average domestic and commercial aerosol propellant, the hair spray, insecticide, touch-up paint, fly or oven cleaner out of the window. For the price of a can of man may be about to

destroy his planet. Even though the manufacture of aerosols involves a big industrial investment, an American Government committee has proposed that fluorocarbon sprays should be banned in three years. In Britain an investigatory committee has been assembled informally by the Royal Society to examine the issue; but it is almost certain that the Government will be asked soon to consider the same action as that proposed in the United States. On available information there seems no question of the use of these agents until several crucial questions have been answered.

In this matter there is no room for error. As with other man-made pollutants that have caused so much trouble, the damage has come from a substance designed to overcome the hazards presented by using some other agent. In this case, the fluorocarbons were substituted for ammonia and sulphur dioxide mixtures needed for refrigeration plants. The original agents were nasty substances and in their handling produced many fatal injuries. However, since these chemicals were intended for refrigerators, or closed systems, the safer fluorocarbon alternative could and should be

continued. Aerosol canisters are quite another matter. The fluorocarbons were formulated as stable and non-poisonous agents under the atmospheric conditions at ground level. However the compounds are known to react violently, as indeed most things do, with ozone.

Already millions of tons have been discharged into the air. Balloon and satellite observations have given indications of how this material could be rising into the upper atmosphere. Little information exists to make more than the crudest calculations of whether this is likely to continue and what chance the ozone layer has of recovering from destruction. Answers to the first question can only be obtained by extensive studies with balloons and such like carrying delicate instruments to measure the fluorocarbon levels at various heights in the atmosphere. The second question may require some elaborate work in the laboratory. Neither of these areas seems to be commanding support. They are essential not just to provide the scientific information on which a permanent decision to ban or otherwise should be based but because we have a right to know the fate of the chemicals already discharged.

Is there any reason why in future uncharged persons should not be banned from the immediate area of the polling station and the whole matter of "telling" be done away with?

Yours faithfully,  
KENNETH BOWLER  
The Rectory, Sandiacre, Nottingham, June 12.

## tale tellers

the Reverend Kenneth Bower has hidden result of the recent election is the fact that 68 per cent of the electorate got them to the polling station with the help of party machines; those who went had the joy of the station without running risk of party "tellers".

In small communities where one's political allegiance is under question as it is, having six people recording your number and telling each other your suspected voting intentions is a good deal of a threat. For example in Northern Ireland recently when one section of the community was "requested" to boycott the election.

Is there any reason why in future uncharged persons should not be banned from the immediate area of the polling station and the whole matter of "telling" be done away with?

Yours faithfully,  
KENNETH BOWLER  
The Rectory, Sandiacre, Nottingham, June 12.

## Need for a fundamental realignment of political parties

From Lord Alport  
Sir, Ramsay MacDonald's ghost has haunted the British political scene, and the Labour Party in particular, for far too long. It may now go in peace to its long rest in the pages of history.

There will never be another coalition like that of 1931. Few people think there will, but the term has been used by politicians, ever since the 1920s, to describe the coalition of 1931. I am, myself, just as guilty as anyone else.

What coalition means to me is not a coming together of the existing parties for, say, the life-time of a Parliament to enable Britain to surmount the present crisis and to be followed by a resumption of the Tory-Labour battle on the old lines. I regard the forthcoming realignment of those who today form the political parties in Britain as something much more fundamental.

We are in the middle of a major revolution. The great issues which divided the Conservatives from the Social Democratic Labour Party and both from the Liberals in the "thirties" are no longer the issues which face Britain today. We have lost our way, and are now beginning to find a new international role. Hence the battle over the referendum to decide whether we are to share in the leadership of a strong, outward looking Europe or to remain a small, inward looking island in the ineffective ranks of the non-aligned.

In the context of the national economy, the issue is no longer between socialism and laissez faire, but between the Marxist state and

the mixed economy. For many in the Labour Party the old Gaitskellian controversy over "Clause 4" has ceased to have any meaning and for many Tories the Selsdon Man is as dead, and almost as bogus, as his Pittodrie predecessor.

And within the nation which comprises the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the problem of class difference is being replaced by a new form of divisiveness represented by the rise of Scottish, Ulster and Welsh nationalism.

This does not mean that many of our earlier problems are not present today, but even these have, in some cases, changed their character. Unemployment, for instance, with all its tragic waste of human resources and its grave social effects is a very different thing from unemployment on the means test in the "thirties". The problem of social welfare is less how it can be extended than how the nation can find the money to improve existing standards and organize its distribution efficiently. In industrial relations the problem is not so much how we can provide the trade unions with the powers needed to protect their members from exploitation by employers than of ensuring that the great powers they already possess are not misused to destroy the whole social and economic fabric of the nation.

Yet in the face of this revolution Parliament remains untransformed and the parties still maintain their old alignments with their traditional postures and slogans, which a cynical electorate finds increasingly irrelevant and meaningless.

It is abundantly clear that on

practically every major issue there are Conservatives, Socialists and Liberals who are more in sympathy with each other than they are with other elements in the parties to which they nominally belong. But there are two factors which prevent a new political alignment from taking place. One is the deterrent influence of the existing party organizations. The other is the present system of parliamentary election.

Fortunately, all the party organizations are almost as bankrupt financially as they are politically and have been further weakened by the evidence of the referendum campaign that an expensive organization is not needed to produce a decisive electoral result. More important, there is arising a powerful groundswell all over the country in favour of electoral reform.

What is needed now is not a coalition of existing parties, with all the incubus of memories of past struggles over issues which are no longer relevant, but a new flexibility of political alignment in our party system and a more effective representation in Parliament of the great mass of moderately minded folk who place the national interest above that of class or party.

Almost certainly our country will have to pass through anxious and troubled times until this happens. But only when it does, will we regain our prosperity, our confidence and, with it, our influence in the world.

I am, etc.  
ALPORT  
House of Lords,  
June 13.

## The Community Land Bill

From Mr Maurice Ash  
Sir, Mr Timothy Raisen is correct in describing (article, June 10) the Town and Country Planning Association as being "highly critical of the Community Land Bill. What Mr Raisen did not say, however, is that in our criticism we have sought to save the Bill, not murder it.

The public has witnessed the spectacle of gross profiteering in land, and all political parties are now persuaded there must be something rotten in this state of affairs. The present lull in the development industry, as John Silkin rightly understands, provides an excellent opportunity for laying the legislative foundations of a new dispensation.

Mr Raisen's desire to kill the Bill is perhaps understandable in the light of the Government's spurning of any agreed solution. Yet the Conservatives' own late-in-the-day remedies are naive, and themselves provide no common ground. Based as they are on taxation of land transactions, they could neither encourage the availability of land for development with the retention of its values by and for the community, nor create that stability which men of property rightly insist is vital in their business. Rather, just as planning itself is unmistakably a political act, so the Conservatives must bring themselves to accept that solutions to the problems of land values must be political in kind.

This association is thus anxious to see the heart of the Bill survive. But it is less the ownership of development land, than its use, that is critical to the purpose. Until all political parties grasp this point they will not find the common ground the country wants them to occupy. Our criticisms of the Bill are centred on this point.

Thus, we want land acquisition to be justified against a development plan, widely made, or to be made at public inquiry where no such plan exists. We wish to see development agencies established, such as will provide vehicles for partnership between public and private interests. Above all, we wish to see the real machinery of the Bill made part of the planning system, not extraneous to it. And we are prepared—as the Government is not—to face the consequences of these changes, in terms of local government organization and planning legislation.

Because the Government is not prepared to face those changes, the Bill's radicalism is merely superficial and provocative. But if it is dropped, the problem will not go away, and the potential to manage the resources of our towns and cities for their own enhancement will have been lost. The Opposition should weigh carefully its responsibility for that outcome.

Yours faithfully,  
MAURICE ASH  
Chairman of Executive,  
Town and Country Planning Association,  
28 King Street,  
Covent Garden, WC2,  
June 12.

## Hawksmoor's masterpiece

From the Bishop of Stepney  
Sir, The letter from Dr Suzanne Lang and Mr Alan Colquhoun (June 11) concerning Christchurch, Spitalfields, speaks of its "deplorable state" and claims that it has suffered "years of neglect".

As Suffragan Bishop of Stepney, in whose area of jurisdiction the church lies, I wish to make it clear that the state of disrepair of Christchurch, Spitalfields, is in no sense the fault of the Church of England or the Christian community, nor, in my opinion, to neglect by the authorities of the Church of England. As Mr Paul Overy reminded your readers in his interesting article on the Hawksmoor Churches (May 29) all of them were built not in response to any missionary or evangelistic enthusiasm at the time (indeed in 1715 enthusiasm was the least probable motive in the Church of England)—but simply because there was surplus money left over from the coal tax which had financed the great West churches after the Great Fire.

It was an Act of Parliament that created "Christchurch, Spitalfields", not an act of Christian commitment or of Christian zeal. And it is clear that, whilst, on aesthetic grounds, the church is a masterpiece, it will remain a masterpiece—deserving the care and attention of the nation, on every other ground it is an appalling responsibility for the Church.

It was built to hold a congregation of at least two thousand—in the words of its cathedral-like proportions even assuming that the vast sum required to restore it as a place of worship in Hawksmoor's original design were to be found (and that would mean at least £500,000) its upkeep would be enormously costly.

The church is one of the most cosmopolitan areas in the whole country, the Church of England population represents today a small minority. Rightly the Church is concerned with evangelism, with mission and with social work, and it is not surprising (and often quite justly) of being an institution more involved with buildings and structures than with ministering to people.

At Spitalfields, as I can testify from first-hand experience, the

Christian community has got its priorities right. The cry of the church—in its use as a permanent refuge for the most sadly neglected members of our society—is a living witness to the compassion of Christ. The evangelistic zeal of the congregation is an inspiration. But the church is a national monument to the work of a great architect is another matter altogether.

It is, in my view, morally unjustifiable for our limited funds to be deployed on buildings for aesthetic reasons or for reasons of national pride. In a world of starving millions and in a country so recently so alienated from the truth of the Gospel, we have other far more urgent claims upon our resources.

I am, Sir, Yours faithfully,  
TREVOR STEPNEY  
400 Commercial Road, E1,  
June 12.

From Mr Terence Davis  
Sir, Dr Suzanne Lang's and Mr Alan Colquhoun's admirable plea for saving Hawksmoor's masterpiece, Christchurch, Spitalfields, is a timely and well thought out one. I am pleased to read that another threatened church, Holy Trinity, Tunbridge Wells, by Decimus Burton.

Burton was no Hawksmoor but his church remains a remarkable survival of a piece of town-planning unique of its period. When viewed from a distance—especially from the Common and Mount Ephraim—it stands out gallantly against later, vulgar exercises in architecture where no detail pleases the eye or raises the spirits. Tunbridge Wells is rich in its past and the past and today—and its museum cries out for more space. The town might take example from Norwich where old buildings are converted with great skill into museums of the highest quality, giving an endless pleasure to all who visit them.

Tunbridge Wells would be infinitely poorer without Holy Trinity and its destruction yet another triumph for those who have eroded its character during this architecturally crude century.

Yours faithfully,  
TERENCE DAVIS,  
Moon's,  
Vadhurst,  
Sussex,  
June 11.

## North London Polytechnic

From Professor E. J. Le Fevre  
Sir, The article by your Education Correspondent on page 4 of The Times of Tuesday, June 10, 1975, is seriously erroneous. The statement therein that I told the governors on June 2 that I would try to get Mr Miller suspended is false. This is not only my personal memory, but I have checked this with many Members of the Court. To have linked such a statement to the statement that I have been made a member of a committee of seven to consider matters related to the actions of Mr Terence Miller, the polytechnic's director, makes the error doubly distressing.

The article also errs in referring to a wholly non-existent committee and frequently referring to a "new inquiry" and "yet another special committee".

I do not for a moment wish to conceal that I voted for the resolution passed on April 21, calling on the chairman to suspend Mr Miller. Yours faithfully,  
E. J. LE FEVRE,  
Department of Mechanical Engineering,  
Queen Mary College,  
University of London,  
Mile End Road, E1,  
June 11.

## Cambridge protest

From Mr Vivian Vale  
Sir, So distinguished a Cambridge figure as the Master of Caius solicits (June 10) your sympathy for the Nursery Action Group. One's mind, however, travels automatically back to the immediate post-war years when hundreds of men and women cheerfully shouldered their family responsibilities along with their degree courses.

Combat veterans were then to be observed pacing the Backs with textbooks in one hand and toddler in the other. Perambulators were parked outside every library. And the Footlights revue of 1948 ran a little number with the poignant refrain "God knows in Tripoli—but we're first-class Dads".

We managed without a crèche in that emergency. Why, with the university bankrupt on current account, can't they extemporize now?

Yours faithfully,  
VIVIAN VALE,  
The Warden's Lodge,  
South Stoneham House,  
Swaythling,  
Southampton,  
June 10.

## Israel and Labour

From Mr Leslie Luckhurst, Labour MP for Nuneaton  
Sir, Edward Mortimer's article on "Labour's attitude towards Israel" (May 20) only partly explains why there is such widespread support for Israel in the Labour Party, and why nearly one hundred MPs belong to Labour Friends of Israel.

The roots of the Labour movement in Israel go back as far as our own. In 1908 they established the first agricultural collective, and 10,000 Israelis live in complete social and economic equality in 240 kibbutzim today. In 1921 they organized a trade union federation to which 70 per cent of the population belongs. They have a successful record, in less than 55 years, of industrial and service cooperatives and a network of union-owned factories which makes them the largest non-governmental employer. Most of Israel's agriculture is on co-operative basis on publicly owned land. So are the buses which provide most public transport.

Israel is a social democracy in

which the dignity of labour, and the rights of the individual have been safeguarded by successive Labour governments, despite the abnormal pressures to which Israel is subjected by the Arab world. The Israel Labour movement has achieved a record for Arab workers, and the proportion of Arabs in trade unions is as high as in the Jewish population.

Israel does more, relatively, than any other developing country to place its technology and social systems at the service of less developed nations. Her social policy is fully compatible with our own and with other members of the Socialist International.

I hope that ultimately democratic socialist parties may emerge in Arab countries. When that happens I know that the Labour Party and the Socialist International will be ready to help them.

Sincerely,  
LES LUCKHURST,  
Chairman, Labour Friends of Israel,  
House of Commons.

## The Tories in Wales

From Mr Jon Hawkins  
Sir, As the person who disturbed the calm blue Welsh Tory pond last year, may I express my agreement with Trevor Fishlock's article (June 7). The Conservative Party in Wales has failed to set to rights with its own identity. For historic reasons it is still reviled in parts of the country and because of its unrepresentativeness and the inertia of its structure it fails to reflect Welsh attitudes and needs.

There have been successes in Wales but many of the achievements listed by David Gibson-Watt in his letter (June 11) were reactions, not initiatives. The Welsh Tory party has made little attempt to capture the hearts and minds of Welshmen. The parliamentary representation has increased in the last ten years, but only in unpopulated areas and the total Tory vote has declined rapidly, particularly in "Welsh Wales". We consistently fail to win seats in rural areas, which were they in England would have huge Conservative majorities. One is forced to the conclusion that our policies and attitudes do not fit.

I stand by my original comment. Like our Scottish counterpart we must change rapidly; we must become Welsh Tories, not the English Conservative Party in Wales. We must reflect the needs and desires of Welsh people. Above all we must take the initiative, with imagination, not unsympathetic policies on such topics as devolution, Welsh water, transport, second homes, industry and the Welsh economy.

We will then overcome our historic image and will deserve success.

Yours sincerely,  
JON HAWKINS, Chairman,  
Wales Young Conservatives,  
33 Ffordd Talfan,  
Garden Village,  
Gorseinon,  
Swansea,  
June 12.

## Industry Bill proceedings

From Mr John Horam, Labour MP for Gwent and Mr Giles Radice, Labour MP for Chester-le-Street  
Sir, May we point out that the lead story in June 11 Times about the proceedings on the Industry Bill Committee was inaccurate in several respects. In particular the "walk-out" did not extend to all Labour members of the committee, as your reporter says; it was entirely confined to our colleagues who are members of the Tribune group. Some of us stayed in the committee room, indicating that we wished to continue with business, because we were satisfied with the assurances given by the Secretary of State, Eric Varley, who also issued a statement dissociating ourselves from the walk-out; but this too was unreported.

We see no reason why the Government should not discuss the Bill with the CBI, and no reason why it should not thereafter attempt to improve it by amendment, providing that it leaves the basic principles (and it is a Bill of principles) intact and gives some extra time for debate. We are confident that Eric Varley, who we think will make a good Industry Minister, will announce this in his usual sensible manner.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN HORAM,  
GILES RADICE,  
House of Commons,  
June 13.

## The first gardener?

From Professor Stella Revard  
Sir, Please permit me to point out to Philip Howard (The Garden becomes a national treasure, June 10) that Eve, not Adam, was the first name of plants.

Flowers... which I bred up with tender hand and gave my Names...  
—Paradise Lost, II, 276-7.

Some might say apparent—belonged to our first female parent.

Yours sincerely,  
STELLA P. REWARD  
Professor of English,  
Southern Illinois University,  
28 Cummer Hill,  
Oxford.







# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

**LAING**  
for tomorrow's  
BUILDING, CIVIL  
& INDUSTRIAL  
ENGINEERING

### Trade figures record first substantial balance of payments surplus in 3 years

By Westlake  
The first time for three years Britain had a substantial last month in its of payments on current account. The figures, released yesterday, confirm evidence of a strong and recovery in the country's position with the rest of the world. The deficit on visible trade, which had been whittled down to £120m in April, was wiped out by a £120m surplus on the invisible account, which includes shipping, services, and profits, and dividends. The result is that the current account has moved from a deficit of £104m in April to a surplus of £104m in May. A small March surplus was also recorded, but it was the first since the quarter of 1972. The recovery, visible exports in such a fresh record of a, while imports plunged to a lowest level for 15 years, at £1,602m. The extent of the improvement in Britain's trade position, when compared with the rest of the world, is the current account run up in the first five months of 1975 is £409m, and there was no further improvement in the final seven months, the total deficit for the year would be only of the order of £10m. It would be a quarter of the £3,771m deficit. But is, also, every likelihood

**UK TRADE**

The following are the April trade figures, seasonally adjusted, and corrected on a balance of payments basis with allowance for known recording errors, as released by the Department of Trade:

	Exports	Imports	Visible Balance
1973	11,512	13,813	-2,301
1974	15,589	20,648	-5,059
1975 Q1	2,685	3,039	-354
Q2	2,786	3,189	-403
Q3	2,981	3,580	-599
Q4	3,048	4,025	-977
1974 Q1	3,500	4,779	-1,279
Q2	3,900	5,216	-1,316
Q3	4,181	5,371	-1,190
Q4	4,029	5,482	-1,453
1975 Q1	4,559	5,422	-863
Q2	4,559	5,422	-863
Q3	4,559	5,422	-863
Q4	4,559	5,422	-863
1975 Q1	1,571	1,856	-285
Q2	1,451	1,785	-334
Q3	1,549	1,886	-337
Q4	1,357	1,855	-498
May p	1,586	1,602	16

Provisional.

that the pace of recovery seen so far this year, will continue. On the foreign exchanges the pound jumped almost a 100 points, or 1 cent, against the dollar after the publication of the trade figures. But it later eased slightly, to close at \$2.355. Its "floating devaluation" against ten other leading currencies improved by 0.3 to 25.9 per cent. The markets were surprised by the extent of the

recovery in the trade position in May, which was the first month since February that has provided figures free of distortion from the dock strike. For the time being at least the figures seem to have helped to arrest the decline in sterling's exchange rate. All of the improvement in the May figures occurred on visible trade in goods other than petroleum. The deficit on petroleum products actually rose from £213m in April to £225m. But there was a huge £288m turn-around on non-petroleum trade, which converted the £78m April deficit into a surplus last month of £210m—the best outcome on non-oil trade for five years. This turn-around is partly due to the depressed level of demand for imports. In the three months to the end of May, there was a drop of 8 per cent in the value of imports compared with the previous three months, while by volume imports fell 6 per cent. By contrast with this, the value of exports continued to rise, by 2 per cent, and volume of exports expanded by a similar amount. In particular, Britain's exports to the oil-producing countries have risen by 34 per cent in the past three months compared with the months December to February. Britain also benefited from a 3 per cent rise in the terms of trade, which results from a faster rise in export prices than import prices.

### NEDO will study role of nationalized industries

By David Young  
A detailed study of the role of the nationalized industries in the economy and the way in which they are to be controlled in the future is to be carried out by the National Economic Development Office (NEDO) at the invitation of the Parliamentary Select Committee on the Nationalized Industries. The setting up of the study was announced yesterday in the Government White Paper on Capital Investment Procedures, published in reply to the select committee's first report on capital investment procedures. NEDO's terms of reference will follow those recommended by the select committee. The study will include an analysis of the economic importance of the nationalized industries and cover their relationships with Government, employees, consumers and other interests. It will take account of two working party reports on the arrangements between the Government and the industries for dealing with capital investment programmes, and on the arrangements between the industries and their suppliers. The result will be embodied in a White Paper dealing particularly with the Government and nationalized industries' relationship. The two working party reports are due to be considered on Tuesday at the National Economic Development Council. The new study will be carried out under the chairmanship of Sir Ronald McLennan, Director-General of NEDO. Professor B. Heath, of the London Graduate School of Business Studies, will act as a general consultant. Guidance and advice during the study will be given by an advisory group composed of Sir Kenneth Barrill, head of the Government's Central Policy Review Staff, Mr Nigel Foulkes, chairman of the British Airport Authority, Mr Raymond Penock, deputy chairman of ICI, Mr Bryan Stanley, general secretary of the Post Office, and Mr Michael Young, chairman of the National Consumer Council. Yesterday's White Paper includes comments by the Select Committee that not enough attention is paid by the nationalized industries to the problem of manpower retraining, that corporate planning should be used effectively throughout the nationalized sector, and that in many nationalized industries, the period in which investment decisions come to fruition has lengthened.



Among the new knights from the City and industry are (above left to right) Mr Jasper Holtom, deputy governor of the Bank of England, Mr George Bishop, chairman of Booker McConnell; Mr Peter Matthews, managing director of Vickers; Mr Arthur Knight, deputy chairman of Courtaulds (below left to right) Mr Jack Wellings, chairman and managing director of George Cohen 600 Group; Mr David Nicolson, chairman of British Airways Board; Mr Ralph Bateman, president of the CBI and Mr Charles Villiers, chairman of Guinness Mahon.



### Peerage and nine knighthoods for businessmen in honours list

By Richard Allen  
A life peerage for Mr John Gregson, managing director of Fairley Engineering, the Fairley Group nuclear engineering subsidiary, heads a long list of honours awarded to industrialists in this year's Birthday List. Mr Gregson, 51, who joined the Stockport-based subsidiary as an office boy 36 years ago, is also vice-chairman of the Production Engineering Research Association. Soon after joining Fairley he was enrolled as an apprentice draughtsman, and in 1946 joined the company's research and development team working on the then new science of nuclear power. He held overall responsibility for the company's work on the Trawstwydd Nuclear Power Station and, since his appointment to the board in 1966, has been responsible for the company's general engineering activities. He was made managing director last October. Mr Ralph Bateman, who as president of the Confederation of British Industry is spearheading an industrialists' campaign to launch a national economic performance programme, is made a KBE. Also made KBE is Mr Jasper Holtom, deputy governor of the Bank of England since 1969. Mr Holtom, who entered the Bank more than 35 years ago, was chief cashier for several years. A knighthood for services to export goes to Mr Peter Matthews, managing director of Vickers. Generally considered

to be one of the brightest directors at the British Steel Corporation, Mr Matthews joined Vickers in a large-scale reorganization in 1970 following pressures from a ginger group of institutional shareholders. Also knighted for services to export is Mr Jack Wellings, chairman and managing director of Booker McConnell Ltd, and Mr David Nicolson, chairman of British Airways Board. For services to export CBEs are awarded to Mr Harry Ridehalgh, senior partner of Sir William Halcrow and Partners; Mr Leslie Thompson, chairman of Westinghouse Brake and Signal; and Mr David Montgomery, the overseas trade consultant. CBEs also go to: Mr Leslie Alston, chairman and managing director of the Alston Group; Mr Hamish Grant, Scottish secretary of the CBI; Mr Hedley Greenborough, chief executive and managing director of Shell-Mex and BP. Mr Kenneth Hamilton, chairman and managing director of Blackwood Morton and Sons; Mr Thomas Hudson, chairman of International Computers Holdings; Mr Frederick Morley, divisional director (Design) of Rolls-Royce (1971); Mr Peter Reynolds, group managing director of Rank Hovis McDougall. Mr Alfred Smith, lately non-executive chairman of the Rover Triumph division at British Leyland; Dr Theodore Suggden, chief executive of Shell Research; Mr Norman Waterworth, managing director of David Brown Gear Industries; Mr Trenchard Weatherhead, managing director of Hunting Surveys and Consultants; Mr Michael Hutson-Wilson, lately deputy chairman of Albright and Wilson; Mr John Young, chairman of Young's Brewery; Mr John Lunch, retiring director-general of the Port of London Authority; and Mr Norman Siddall, deputy chairman of the National Coal Board.

Mr John Gregson: Heading the list of honours to industry.

### Second-best month for the building societies

By Margaret Stone  
Building society net receipts were more normal levels in May after jumping £132m in April. The figure of £406m in May was a drop back to the level of the first five months of 1975. The figures—the second best released yesterday by Building Societies Association—are not unexpected, and already been acknowledged that April was a remarkable month. A large part of the increase was caused by people's money out of clearing as their deposit rates rose to fall into societies. The switching of that money was regarded as a "one-off" and was not expected to be repeated in May. Also the impact of the announcement of a cut in the society's tax was expected in May despite the fact

that the rate change from 7.5 per cent to 7 per cent did not take effect until the beginning of this month. It is too early yet for the weekly monitoring system by the association of the net receipts position of the major societies to show any strong trend this month. However, the Government's index-linked bonds for pensioners went on sale at the beginning of the month and this is expected to have some effect, although it may be slighter than was originally thought. On the lending side, the set-back in receipts is hardly reflected. New mortgage approvals amounted to £458m, only £8m less than the record level of £466m in April. Again, the May approvals were the second-best ever made by the movement.

### £107m rise in bank loans to authorities

Sterling advances by the London clearing banks were unchanged to United Kingdom residents during the five weeks to May 21, but loans to local authorities rose £107m, to £1,001m. During April, there was evidence of a modest stimulus in the personal sector through buying of domestic appliances. During these five weeks, sterling deposits by United Kingdom residents increased by £49m to £21,345m against the expected seasonal fall, reflecting the continuing exchange deficit. A series of key changes have been made in the statistics produced on a regular basis by the banks. The new system and the reasons behind it will be detailed next week in the Bank of England's Quarterly Review for June.

### Pilkington profits down £20m

By Our Financial Staff  
Pilkington Brothers confirmed yesterday the more pessimistic market fears by reporting near-halved profits of £14.4m compared with £43.8m for the previous year, a £20m fall. Operations were particularly bad overseas, largely because of the Australian situation, with a poor first half £3.02m trading profit cut back to £3m for the full year—less than a quarter of the previous year's level. In preliminary figures for the year to the end of March, the home side picked up slightly but trading profit for the full year still ran to well under half the previous year. Sir Alastair Pilkington, the chairman, said the sharp decline in trading profits resulted from severely reduced demand from the motor and building industries and for television glassware. Demand for energy-saving products was good and he predicted that income from licensing, despite a setback last year, would grow. "We are weathering the storm and remain confident about the future," he added. A final gross dividend of 6.7p (with a share option) will be recommended, 5.8p being recommended for the previous year, to give a total gross dividend for the year of 13.2p compared with 11.6p. On bear closing, the shares finished 15p up at 195p.

### Late boost for share prices

The significant improvement in Britain's trade balance in May caught the City by surprise yesterday, and share prices, which have been falling all week in the wake of the pound, moved up smartly. Gilt edged stocks also turned higher, with the short end of the market rising strongly to show gains of about 75p in several stocks. In equities the fall had already been halted by Mr Healey's pledge that, although inflation would be fought, there were no immediate plans for rough measures. In late dealings gains in leading shares took the FT index to 340.6, a net gain of 5.9 on the day. It was also the end of the trading account, which has seen market indices rise about 1.3 per cent as rising confidence ahead of the EEC referendum was replaced this week by renewed worries regarding inflation. Investor's Week, page 17

### Te rescue Sabena

By Westlake  
June 13—Belgium's decision today to take measures to aid the airline, Sabena, which in Belgian francs (about £1.48) is in deficit, a Cabinet spokesman said. Government plans to aid and restructuring as which it will reveal next week. The plan added that for Sabena executives not be renewed when term of office expires.

### Fed chief calls for a wider look at monetary reform

From Peter Norman  
Amsterdam, June 13  
Dr Arthur Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, today suggested that the International Monetary Fund's interim committee would have to take a more general look at the questions of monetary reform than has been the case so far. Speaking after a session of the International Monetary Conference of the American Bankers' Association here, Dr Burns said progress towards monetary reform was much the same now as before the inconclusive Paris meeting of the interim committee earlier this week. Dr Burns suggested two ways in which the growth of liquidity might be tackled. The International Monetary Fund could be empowered to mop up gold and currency reserves by substituting special drawing rights on a controlled basis. Another possibility would be through reformed exchange arrangements dealing not just with short-term money movements but also embracing medium-term financing.

### selling three to Iran

By Westlake  
June 13—Trans Airlines today announced a decision to take measures to aid the airline, Sabena, which in Belgian francs (about £1.48) is in deficit, a Cabinet spokesman said. Government plans to aid and restructuring as which it will reveal next week. The plan added that for Sabena executives not be renewed when term of office expires.

### 4 pc steel cut plan for UK

From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, June 13  
A recommendation by the European Commission today suggested that British steel makers should reduce their output by 4 per cent during the four months from June to September this year compared with the same period last year. Earlier in the week the Commission had proposed an average cutback on production throughout the EEC of about 15 per cent, limiting output to 42,800,000 tonnes, compared with 50,550,000 tonnes during the June to September period last year. Workers pay cut: Workers at the British Steel Corporation's Port Talbot plant are to have their pay reduced because of a slump in orders. For some of the 10,000 men it will mean 25 to 30 per cent less—about £15 to £20 a week. The new work schedules will mean Monday to Friday production on a guaranteed 40-hour week. The men had been working 42 hours.

### nd prices up

By Westlake  
June 13—Leyland car, truck prices will go up by 4.8 per cent from tomorrow. The move is a result of the cost of raw materials and parts.

### Grand Met first half profits rise

By Our Financial Staff  
Despite a big increase in interest charges, at £27.9m against £21.9m for the half year to end-March, Grand Metropolitan now has a positive cash flow. Although not repudiating its championship of the merits of high gearing at a time of high inflation, the group, whose interests include hotels, entertainment, brewing, milk distribution, wines and spirits, is planning to reduce borrowings to increase its "future manoeuvrability." Grand Metropolitan's profits for the first six months of its financial year were better than most expectations at £15.32m against £13.9m previous year, thanks largely to a good performance by Wm & A. Trueman, which is seeing the benefits of reorganization and has, moreover, done better than in the corresponding period of the timing of its price increases.

### How the markets moved

Rises	Falls
Barclays Bk 5p to 310p	Broken Hill 15p to 60p
Brit Am 732p	Bk of NSW 13p to 62p
Courtaulds 4p to 131p	Guthrie Corp 14p to 201p
GKN 6p to 250p	Guthrie Corp 14p to 201p
Imp Cont Gas 10p to 35p	Glaxo M. J. 12p to 17p
Lloyds Bk 5p to 250p	Int Edges 15p to 85p
Long John Int 8p to 142p	Lee A 141p
	MIM Hldgs 9p to 205p
Maynards 10p to 28p	Philips Lamp 23p to 76p
Pilkington Bros 13p to 195p	Reliance Grp 15p to 39p
Racal Elect 5p to 255p	Robb Caledon 3p to 43p
Shell 5p to 317p	Steel Bros 8p to 227p
Tylenol 5p to 68p	Stothert & Pitt 8p to 80p
Ultrafund 10p to 25p	Servicore Mar 10p to 26p
Unilever 5p to 390p	Union Corp 7p to 518p

**THE POUND**

Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate
Australia 5	1.77	Bank	62/8
Austria Sch	35.00	Bank	1.71
Belgium Fr	84.50	Bank	37.00
Canada \$	2.38	Bank	61.75
Denmark Kr	12.65	Bank	2.33
Finland Mk	12.35	Bank	1.25
France Fr	9.30	Bank	3.00
Germany DM	5.45	Bank	5.25
Greece Dr	68.00	Bank	66.00
Hongkong \$	11.40	Bank	11.05
Italy L	1445.00	Bank	1400.00
Japan Yn	690.00	Bank	665.00
Netherlands Gld	5.60	Bank	5.40
Norway Kr	11.40	Bank	11.05
Portugal Esc	54.25	Bank	54.25
S Africa Rd	2.02	Bank	1.95
Spain Pes	129.00	Bank	124.00
Sweden Kr	9.15	Bank	8.85
Switzerland Fr	5.80	Bank	5.60
US \$	2.32	Bank	2.27
Yugoslavia Dr	38.25	Bank	36.50

Notes for bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Interest rates subject to revision without notice and other foreign currency business.

### ny strike ends

By Westlake  
June 13—Construction workers at Massy tractor building factory yesterday voted their six-week strike and rises of up to £7.89 a decision was against the strike-leaders.

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## PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

## Home thoughts from the city of infidels

To: About Ben Adhem (may your tribe increase), most sublime potentate and beloved cousin, greetings.

After many days of wearisome travelling I am finally arrived in London, and have taken rooms in a tavern overlooking one of its famous parks where there are soft fountains and exotic plants.

Many and strange are the delights to be found among the maze of streets near by. Indeed on the evening of my arrival, a short way down the particular street on which my tavern is to be found I visited a place of entertainment where men and women dressed as rabbits. By the beard of my mother, I swear it is so.

After an evening's dining at this place of entertainment, alas, beloved cousin, I had lost 500 omelets—which I would be greatly favoured if you would have my steward, Rafiq, come up and have dispatched to me that I may pay my debt to this Mr Poco Rallandando, whose good fortune at games of chance is only matched by the persuasiveness of his five close friends with whom I conversed long into the night.

In any event, the next morning, after I had broken my fast on a curious local dish consisting of crushed grain ground into paste and eaten with cow's milk and salt, I proceeded to the quarter of the City where dwell the merchants and the money changers. Here all was



"... all plucking my sleeve and competing for my attention."

confusion and turmoil, and soon I was surrounded by a crowd of ragged bankers, brokers, dealers, traders and fixers all plucking my sleeve and competing for my attention.

Naturally, I ignored them since, as you yourself told me from your own experience, once you take pity on one of the poor wretches so great a clamour of abuse and complaint is set up among the remainder, that one can scarcely bear to be the cause of such torment. Compassion for these miserable infidels, though one must feel, it is a consolation that their condition is entirely due to their own feckless and apathetic attitude to life.

You entrusted me with the charge of seeking out some man of wisdom, understanding

and skill in whose hands our gold could be left, so that usury thereon may increase our might and riches. But for all their promises and pleadings, their talk of oil rigs and caddy-floss was as empty to me as the water pots of Sidi Barani. Even when I granted an audience with their Grand Vizier himself, who sat cross-legged in his Palace of Westminster, his hookah before him, but, may, he prevailed not against my arguments, beloved cousin, and I left him grieving.

Returning to the tavern, my thoughts dwell on the place of entertainment where men and women dressed as rabbits. Thither I went, and sought out Mr Poco Rallandando once more. He, I knew from my own experience, was a man of wisdom, understanding

and skill in whose hands our gold could be left, so that usury thereon may increase our might and riches. But for all their promises and pleadings, their talk of oil rigs and caddy-floss was as empty to me as the water pots of Sidi Barani. Even when I granted an audience with their Grand Vizier himself, who sat cross-legged in his Palace of Westminster, his hookah before him, but, may, he prevailed not against my arguments, beloved cousin, and I left him grieving.

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moreover, five close friends of persuasiveness.

I inquired as to the nature of his business, and, although, beloved cousin, I may not have been of a nature which you had in mind when entrusting me with this charge, you will delight in the fact that its nature is close to that of the business conducted with such wisdom, skill and understanding by our mutual great-grandfather when he founded the fortunes of our noble family.

Accordingly, I entrusted him with the gold talents with which you entrusted me and doubtless in due course our usury will receive. A chance to be engaged with such an ally in the only trade that is likely to show any profit in this backward country, as it is said, an offer that one cannot refuse.

Shortly, then, I shall begin my return home, and after many days of wearisome travelling through Deauville, Monte Carlo, Las Vegas and Singapore I shall finally be with you affectionate cousin and subject, Ah Baba.

PS—I would be greatly favoured if you would have my steward, Rafiq, uncure the 500 omelets which I have dispatched to you, as I have heard of a deepening relationship between Mr Poco Rallandando and his agreed to forget all about this small matter.

Francis Kinsman

## Bonds

## Irish investments have their charms

Whether the recent strong inflow of United Kingdom investment funds into the Republic of Ireland during the run-up to the EEC referendum will now tail off or even go into reverse remains to be seen. It seems likely, however, that some Irish investments, such as bank deposits and shares, government stocks and property bonds will continue to attract United Kingdom funds as an inflation hedge.

Against this background and because smaller investors appear to be losing their reticence over investing in the Irish Republic after the troubles in the North it is interesting to examine one or two of the more obvious investments available.

The reason why some Irish securities are seen as a good hedge is mainly that a split in the parity of sterling and the Irish pound has been rumoured for some time. This, in turn, is because the Irish Republic has a slower inflation rate than the United Kingdom, albeit one that is increasing and which is considerably higher than that on the Continent, which suggests a certain strength in the Irish pound relative to sterling.

Unless United Kingdom inflation slows down, the Irish see real objections in watching their currency drift down with sterling, which suggests some improved strength and stability of their economy since joining the EEC. Against this, they have to weigh the implications of a parity split with a country which still accounts for roughly half of Ireland's trade, though the proportion declines annually in favour of Europe.

The rapid slide in the value of sterling which it was commonly supposed would follow a "no" vote in the referendum helped to crystallize these thoughts in investors' minds. Irish bank deposits and securities thus became a popular repository for funds and in the first three months of this year alone some £50m of United Kingdom funds—much higher

Insurance company	Fund	Size of fund (m approx)	Launch date	Percentage since launch (latest offer price)
Growth Property Mgt	Crusader Gwth Prop	£1.7m	April 1969	35.8
Property Growth	Property Growth Bonds	£26.8m	June 1969	34.8
City of Westminster Irish Life	City of West. Annuity	£4.4m	Sept 1969	32.0
Hill Samuel Life	Property Modules	£29m	Oct 1969	72.0
Cannon Assurance	Hill Samuel Prop	£18.1m	Nov 1969	22.8
Guardian	Cannon Prop Unit	£3.6m	Jan 1970	45.2
	Property Bonds	£10.2m	June 1970	32.1

Source: Irish Life.

than the usual figure—is believed to have flowed into the Republic.

One of the homes which these funds chose was property, or rather property bonds, and in this context it is revealing to look at figures presented recently in London by Irish Life, the country's biggest life office, which operates various insurance-linked investment vehicles. Irish Life's Managed Fund has also benefited from the special economic conditions obtaining in the Republic.

It is perhaps not always realized that the Property Modules Fund run by Irish Life (in which the Dublin Government is the principal shareholder) is the third biggest fund in Britain and Ireland after Abbey Property Bond and Hambro Property Investment. The total value of the fund at £23m is, however, a good deal smaller than Abbey's £42m and Hambro's £56.4m, taking all three on a comparable date basis.

There are two other property bond funds in the Irish Republic of which one is Norwich Union's "Property Units" fund and the other a bond run by New Ireland. They are, however, much smaller than the Irish Life fund.

The 72 per cent growth in the value of the Property Modules Fund since its launch in October, 1969, has far outstripped that of other funds

launched around that time, as the table shows.

Broadly, the cause of this superior performance by the Irish Life fund has been that property values in the Republic did not suffer anything like the same fall in 1973 and 1974 as did those in Britain. This was partly a reflection of the absence of commercial property re-sale contracts in the Republic and also of the relative buoyancy of the economy during this period.

One has to make the point, too, that the Irish property market is a fairly narrow one with limited institutional investment in it, which tends to mean that one buyer can effectively dictate rates far more easily than in the much broader United Kingdom property market. However, against this has to be set the fact that Irish Life's Property Modules Fund is invested in United Kingdom properties and a further 55m or 17 per cent in Dutch and French property.

Another factor behind the performance of the Irish Life fund has been that it remained solidly in properties when other funds were going liquid and, in the Republic at least, property proved a better inflation hedge than cash.

The recent performance of Irish funds under the impact of foreign interest is shown in Irish Life's Managed Fund, which has grown in value by 23.3 per cent since its launch in March, 1974, and by 19.8 per cent on the offer price of the units in the six months to March 31, 1975.

On that date 57 per cent of

the fund was invested in the High Income Fund, where active switching policy between short and long and between Irish and United Kingdom gilts means that the fund lived up to its name. Since March 31 the proportion of the Managed Fund invested in Irish property Modules has been raised from 8 to 20 per cent in anticipation of a recovery in the property market in the Irish Republic and elsewhere.

The amount in the Blue Chip fund has been reduced to 25 per cent, largely because the Irish equity market has largely failed to benefit from the influx of external funds.

The Bank of Ireland's Gilts and Irish Life Trust has been another important recipient of funds in the recent inflow. This is a vehicle which enables the investor to have an interest in a managed gilt fund, something which is not possible in this country because of the tax treatment of United Kingdom unit trusts.

The Bank of Ireland is able to distribute income from the trust without deduction of income tax. The trust is also exempt from capital gains tax and normally from the new Irish capital taxes, too, as far as non-residents are concerned. As a matter of interest, the rise in the offer price of 16.8 per cent since the trust was launched in November, 1973, compares with an average fall in Irish gilts of 13.5 per cent—Dudgeon's (Stockbrokers) Gilts Index—and with a fall (admittedly not strictly comparable) of more than 10 per cent in the FT 100 Government Securities Index over the same period.

Traditionally accustomed to operating under the shadow of the City of London and directing much of their investment there, Irish fund managers are, as one Irish fund manager "some what astonished" by the present performance of certain Irish investments. But it is much less true nowadays that "when Britain sneezes, Ireland catches a cold".

Some people are obviously prepared to put money on the Irish Republic's continuing economic health.

Anthony Rowley

## A Clapham triumph against the CPO bulldozer

Since July, 1974, residents in a small corner of Clapham have been awaiting the result of a public inquiry into the proposed compulsory purchase of their homes by Lambeth Borough Council. For almost three years HALLDORA BLAIR has followed the efforts of Caspa (Clapham Action St Paul's Area) to save the area from wholesale redevelopment and now she reports on their success.

Caspa has won; Lambeth's bulldozer has been halted; the victory party is to be held in the churchyard and local reaction has varied from tears of relief to a celebratory repast of a kitchen.

Friday, June 6, brought news of the end of the three-year struggle. In letters that required very careful reading before the vital message could be gleaned, the Department of the Environment announced that the two compulsory purchase orders for the Wandsworth Road/Ivey Road area were not to be confirmed.

The Secretary of State accepts that (Lambeth) Council have an urgent need for additional housing but on the evidence at present before him he is not convinced that the redevelopment... is the best method of achieving the Council's objective.

"He considers that a more satisfactory result might be achieved by retaining the existing buildings as far as it is reasonably practical to do so and that to this end the Council may give further consideration to the possibility of repair, improvement, and in some cases, conversion of suitable houses, together with infill development and limited redevelopment where the latter is clearly necessary."

"He notes that this is a course favoured by many of the objectors and suggests that the Council might therefore invite the cooperation of the community in evolving a scheme which could yield a substantial housing gain without the need for wholesale redevelopment of the area."

And for what else has Caspa campaigned if not precisely this?

Council reaction is not yet available but Caspa imagines that surprise must have predominated. After all, it was only last month that a team of surveyors was at work in the neighbourhood, presumably getting ahead in anticipation of council control. For at that stage neither the council nor Caspa knew that, in favouring a new approach to the achievement of housing gain in the area, the inspector's report would recommend a thorough survey of its land and properties.

Caspa owes much to this inspector. His report comes out so strongly in favour of rehabilitation as against wholesale redevelopment that any minister, and not necessarily one of Mr Anthony Crosland's persuasion, would have found it hard to reject his recommendations.

In forming his conclusions the inspector acknowledged Caspa's influence on the case. The presence of a strong action group was, he considered, a forcible demonstration of a "well integrated community living happily and neighbourly."

As the compulsory purchase was always fought upon the basis that it would break up a long established community, this recognition was particularly gratifying.

Caspa is then credited with having given "sensible" evidence at the inquiry and certainly it appears to have had effect. Such, for example, were Caspa's criticisms of the figures for density of population and of the site layout proposed in the council's indicative scheme that the inspector accepted "with little doubt, that complete redevelopment of the area would not provide a substantial housing gain, if indeed any gain at all."

But Caspa also owes much to its friends and it is now hoped that the alliance with Carg (fighting for the adjacent Rectory Grove area), whose inquiry was held alongside Caspa's, will have produced a similar re-



The Save Old Clapham theme illustrated on a Caspa

prieve. Much of the Clapham Society's evidence on the probable effect of repeated redevelopment schemes on Clapham as a whole impressed the inspector and the previous and present incumbents of St Paul's church gave valuable evidence of a live community.

Were it not for its individual members, however, Caspa surely would not have won. A silent community would not have carried the day and anyone faced with a similar challenge should know that Caspa's protest demanded much expenditure of money, energy and time.

The financial aspects of the fight I hope to write about when the successful objectors have claimed their costs and a final account can be written: of the other two factors no account can be taken. Suffice it to say that one of the committee members once wondered how on earth she had filled her time before Caspa was born.

Some more general observations about the victory may also be recorded. The Caspa saga spanned the four years from 1971, a period during which protest groups have proliferated from research, studies and reports has sprung a far more general consciousness of urban deprivation and the need for balanced communities.

The economic situation must have played its part. Caspa may have pro only from the present of public funds for ment (rehabilitation b erally a cheaper al but also from the b when local authorities difficult to get buildin submitted and comp cause of competition private sector.

Lambeth's record starts and complet has told against the inquiry, for housing l than gain is the result of blighted sites redevelopment over p year.

The Secretary of t already on record opponent of sweeping lopment schemes. On t reading of the Bill for Housing Act he said: for long been a oponents of indis clearance, which I b gone too far in many the country.

"I believe that in a clearance can be a destructive of existing ties and is frequent extensive solution. A it often stops peop where they want to houses which, for faults, they still treas

## Capital transfer tax

## Valuation—harder than the rules suggest

If gifts are made which are not within one of the specified exemptions discussed in previous articles, capital transfer tax will start to bite when their combined values build up to more than £15,000. So it is important, when planning for the tax, to know the rules for valuing the gift.

Basically they are simple. Whether made during lifetime or on death the value of the gift is, to quote from the statute, "the price which the property might reasonably be expected to fetch if sold in the open market at that time."

If the property were substantial, a large holding in shares for example, it could be argued that to sell all at the same time would depress the market price of those shares, thereby reducing their value. But valid as that argument might be, the law tells us it must be disregarded.

If the gift is made in cash the value is clear cut and there can be no dispute about it. Otherwise it will have to be priced at its open market value on the day it is made.

There are no problems with quoted shares and securities. The method of arriving at open market value has been established for many years for estate duty and capital gains tax, and is to be used for the new tax. There are two other methods.

One takes one quarter of the difference between the two published prices in the Stock Exchange Daily Official List and adds it to the lower price. For example, a share quoted at 20p and 22p (the jobber's buy and sell prices) will be valued at 20.5p.

The other line, if it gives a lower valuation, is to take the halfway point between the highest and lowest prices at which bargains, other than bargains done at special prices, were recorded on the day of the gift or the nearest business day.

For estate duty there was a special relieving rule for quoted stocks and shares (including holdings in authorized unit trusts) and this is carried forward to the new tax as far as deaths are concerned. Where a sale of the shares is effected within one year of death, and sale proceeds are lower than the probate value, the lower figure can be substituted.

Where a life policy matures on death, the value will be the proceeds of the policy, just as it was for estate duty. If a policy is given away by the assured during his or her life, the value will be the market value of the policy (normally the surrender value) or the total premiums paid up to the date of transfer, whichever is the greater. Presumably this is to protect the Inland

Revenue from artificially-low surrender values.

The valuation of shares in family companies, whether for estate duty, capital gains tax, or any other purpose, never has been easy, involving delicate and protracted negotiations with the Inland Revenue. It will be no easier for capital transfer tax.

Although the normal rule of open-market value applies, those who have endeavoured to negotiate such a value with the Shares Valuation Division of the Inland Revenue will know it sounds easier than it really is. It is a matter for the experts, rather than a do-it-yourself exercise. Incidentally, if we get a wealth tax the method of valuation as far as the valuation of assets as far as deaths are concerned.

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What emerges from this method of valuation is that a donor who wishes to give away assets other than cash should be careful in the choice of

assets to be transferred better to give assets, appreciate in value reverse.

It ought not to be looked at a sale necessarily protect vendor—or the pu from the capital tra If the asset is sold than its market val may be a gift to the difference by th unless it was simply a bad bargain.

Conversely, in a cas valuation, where the sold for more than i value, it is the buye be liable to tax on th the difference betv price paid and the value.

This stems from S of the Finance Act 19 the amount into the tax m tions apart) "any d made by a person (t feror) as a result of value of his estate im after the disposition than it would be but disposition; and the by which it is less t transferred by the tr

The upshot of that legislation is that the gift is measured what is received but loss the donor suffers ing with it.

Vera Di F

## THE INVESTMENT TRUST CORPORATION

## STEADY RISE IN REVENUE—OVERSEAS POLICY CONTINUING

The 87th Annual General Meeting of The Investment Trust Corporation Limited will be held on 8th July in London, Mr. David M. C. Donald, W.S., F.C.I.S., the Chairman, presiding.

The following is an extract from the Report of the Directors: Sir George Erskine has decided not to stand for re-election to the Board. His long period of service as a Director has been characterized by a steady sense of propriety and of responsibility to shareholders. Over the past decade when more youthful figures were capturing the limelight both on their entrances and on their exits, Sir George has carried out his duties with wisdom and caution without discouraging sensible shareholders. His benevolent and reassuring personality will be greatly missed. We wish him many years of happy retirement.

For the year ended 31 May, 1975 gross revenue amounted to £3,044,778 an increase of £278,709 over 1974. This advance in revenue is accounted for by increased dividends on investments and a substantial improvement in deposit interest arising from our increased liquidity during the year.

Earnings on the Ordinary shares are 5.026p per share compared with 4.561p last year. An interim dividend of 1.407p was paid in December, 1974 and your Directors now recommend a final dividend of 3.120p making a total dividend of 4.527p per share. Together with the shareholders' imputed tax credit the gross dividend for the year is 6.9p compared with 6p paid in respect of the previous year.

Increased value of net assets The value of the total net assets of the company has risen during the year from £59,536,174 to £70,062,323 which, after adjustment for the cost of purchase for cancellation of £264,890 3p, Debenture Stock 1965/75, represents an increase of 18.1 per cent. Over the same period the F.T. Actuaries All-Share Index rose by 9.7 per cent, and the Dow Jones Industrial Index, adjusted for changes in the Exchange Rate and Dollar Premium, rose by 45.3 per cent.

## Future prospects

If wage increases continue to exceed the rise in the cost of living with the consequent impetus on the rate of inflation, the result will be an economic crisis of some magnitude. It is to be hoped that before it is too late the moderates, of whom there are a majority in the Trade Union movement, will exert more pressure on their officials, that the present lack of Government will end with the Referendum on the 5th June, and that managements will show more determination. Having expressed that hope your Directors will continue to maintain a substantial part of your assets overseas.

The rate of dividend recommended for the past year is covered by the present estimate of revenue for the current year.

## Insurance

## Making sure Ma and Pa aren't short of cash

In view of capital transfer tax much has been written over the past few months about how the elderly should plan their financial affairs in order to be able to pass on as much as possible to their children and grandchildren. Some elderly parents, however, are not so affluent, and need financial help from their children, although, prob-

ably, they are too proud to ask. Some of the ways in which a couple could covenant in favour of their parents, with tax advantages if his marginal rate of income tax was higher than theirs. A son can give his parents a lump sum, the net income from which will be greater in their hands than his, if he pays a higher rate of income tax than they do. But this raises capital transfer tax problems, since the gift is likely to be chargeable, and if the capital has not been spent before the death of the second parent there may be further capital transfer tax to be paid.

Another method, which needs to be fully discussed by all concerned before making a decision, is to use insurance schemes on the market whereby as part of a "package deal" the parents raise a mortgage on their house and use this capital sum to purchase a joint life and survivor annuity. In this way, there will be extra income for the parents until both have died.

When both have died, the loan will have to be repaid to the insurance company, presumably from the proceeds of selling the house. A son, therefore, will not receive as much from his parents after their death as if this arrangement had not

been made. But, of course, there is a catch on the amount of capital transfer tax which has to be paid after the second death.

Other sons or daughters, however, may prefer to give financial help to their parents, when it is needed from their own resources, perhaps by realizing capital. This raises the problem of how the parents would manage if the son or daughter should predecease them.

Most men with family commitments have life cover for their wives and children, but not so many think about their parents. Usually, of course, the parents die first, but not always.

One way of arranging this type of protection is for a son to buy non-profit whole life contingent assurance to pay a set sum if he should die before the person dependent on him. The policy should be on a trust basis in favour of the parent. If both parents are alive, a separate policy could be arranged for each.

With this type of policy, premiums would have to be paid by the son so long as both he and the person in whose favour the policy is written are alive. He will be able to claim the customary statutory relief of income tax, at present equivalent to a discount off the premium of 17 per cent.

If a parent for whom this insurance has been arranged dies before the son (as, of course, is most likely), the latter simply stops paying the premiums and no benefit is payable under this policy.

Should the son die first, a claim is paid under the policy.

The sum involved will be completely free from capital transfer tax, since the policy will belong to the parent.

To avoid capital transfer tax problems on the subsequent death of the parent, it is probably best for the capital to be used to purchase an immediate annuity which will absorb the capital and there will be no refund from the insurance company at the parent's death. In return for which it should be possible to obtain a good yield.

The choice of company for the annuity can be left until the event occurs, when the best yield obtainable at the time can be taken.

A scheme along these lines has a certain amount of built-in protection against inflation, although not necessarily enough.

In deciding on the amount for which the insurance should be arranged, it is probably best to work backwards. One starts off, therefore, by deciding how much extra net income should be provided for the parent if the son should die now, bearing in mind that only the interest component of annuity benefits is taxable.

Having decided on the gross annuity needed, an insurance broker can say what capital sum would be needed to buy that

income for the parent in today's conditions. Naturally, interest rates may not be the same if, and when an annuity does have to be bought.

The so-called hedge against inflation lies in the fact that, assuming no change in annuity rates (and, as mentioned above, rates may very well be changed as the parent grows older a given amount of cash will buy higher benefits. This is simply because the parent will have a shorter life expectancy.

Apart from an improvement in the gross annuity yield at the older age levels, the tax position will be better. For a

given type of annuity dependent on the sex and age annuitant when it is bought, tax authorities say 10 per cent of the price represents repay capital each year and not taxable. Only the interest element is taxable.

Naturally, at the old the capital content is (again owing to a short expectancy of life), with a higher proportion benefits from the free company will be in the hands of the ar

John Drumm

UNIT TRUSTS: Specialist fund (progress this year and the past three years). Unitholder index: 161.8%, rise from January 1, 1975: 60.8%.

Average change offer to bid, net income included, over past 12 months: +8.7%; 3 years: -23.0%.

Statistics supplied by Money Management and Unitholder, 30 Finsbury Square, London, E.C.2.

Hill Samuel Fin	33.9	2.5	National Invest	18.7	-30.9	Slater Walker Fin
Japan & Gen	49.8	—	S & P Ebor Prop	17.8	-33.8	Unicomm America
usity Select F	46.4	—	Henderson Far East	17.8	-58.2	Unicomm Europe
US & Gen	41.8	—	Dreyfus Commod	16.9	-35.9	Water Walker Ass
Target Investment	32.3	-21.2	S & P Ebor Finan	16.6	-27.9	Water Walker Ass
Water Walker Ass	29.2	-0.2	Target Financial	15.4	-33.9	Water Walker Ass
Charterhouse Fin	27.1	—	Oceanic Investment	15.4	-24.6	Water Walker Ass
S & P Ebor Energy	27.0	-22.2	Hill Samuel Int	15.4	-27.9	Water Walker Ass
Oceanic Financial	26.7	-19.6	S & P US Growth	14.3	-27.9	Water Walker Ass
Hill Samuel Dollar	26.4	—	Charterhouse Euro	14.2	-10.4	Water Walker Ass
Target Internat	25.9	—	Slater Walker Fin	14.2	-14.1	Water Walker Ass
Abbey Investment	25.7	-19.5	Unicomm America	14.0	-18.1	Water Walker Ass
Nat West Finan	25.1	-19.5	National Universal	14.1	-18.1	Water Walker Ass
Charterhouse Inter	22.6	-40.2	Grangerchester	13.7	—	Water Walker Ass
US & Gen	22.5	0.5	Lawson-Gilt	13.1	—	Water Walker Ass
US & G American	22.2	—	S & P 500 Growth	12.0	-21.0	Water Walker Ass
Slater Minerals	21.7	12.5	British Invest	12.6	-30.0	Water Walker Ass
Target Commodity	20.7	-39.9	S & P European	11.9	-10.0	Water Walker Ass
Water Walker Ass	20.4	-20.1	S & P Financial	9.1	-21.6	Water Walker Ass
Water Walker Ass	20.3	-34.7	Sec of America	8.9	-21.6	Water Walker Ass



EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

# erling blues • Local ews • Left's views

on the pound during the last week put paid to a post-referendum in shares, as well as the stock market on the as rumours of an "economic package" Government began to But the Chancellor's, backed up by sig- improved trade in May, seem to have confidence in the

afternoon's rise of points in the FT represented little more than a pound recovers next

en shares are likely up also. There is still a cash wanting to come market developments in in- ported last week by vestments and Pilkingtons, among others—con-

time to confirm market expectations, without significantly depressing investment While the heavy engineers are likely to remain under a cloud, one would expect to see the more widely spread, exporting companies in favour again.

Attention in the brewery sector is turning increasingly towards the regional rather than the national groups, thanks both to the relative share price performance and the increases in volume sales now being reported by the smaller companies.

Recent advances include barrellage sales at J. W. Cameron of Harrogate visiting the smaller independent of the Manchester-based Boddingtons and more than a third at the Wandsworth-based Youngs. Admittedly some impetus has

come by way of free propaganda from the proponents of "graduated blues", but of more importance in profit terms has been a flexible pricing policy vis-à-vis the nationals.

As disposable income drops, the trend is decidedly towards the local, cheaper brew. And partly by accident, if not of design, the regional group tends to have a fairly low exposure to wines and spirits and are thus not too adversely affected by the Budget increases.

On the pricing the regional brewer is well placed, too, for he can adjust his own product prices to gain volume at the expense of the nationals.

At present the more attractive of the smaller independent brewers are the perennial Boddingtons, Greene King, Buckleys and Tollermeach for recovery.

Minister, Mr Eric Heffer, until recently Minister of Trade, says: "No one has gone directly to Harold, but the position is that all the way through they (the City) have indicated their unhappiness at Ben's removal, and they are now in a position to be ex-

But is there any sub- to the claim, and does know what it is talking city is the bete noire of t to where, it claims, the evils of society can nately traced. But just the City? Mr Joe Labour MP for Basset- Parliamentary Private y to Mr Benn, sees it passing the baton. The exchange, and the Con- of British Industry, a press operating as its in. The City, as a term in the Left's voca- boils down to those who the economy through ent or the lack of it, s a pretty broad area.

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## ting the City into perspective

left wing should have spectre of "the City" the motivating force Mr Wilson's decision to Ben this week to the ly less sensitive area y and away from his industry was hardly and was to be ex- But is there any sub- to the claim, and does know what it is talking

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Steel bar, strip and wire manufacturer Arthur Lee is suffering from a slump in demand; the directors recommend a maintained interim dividend, but say that the final dividend will depend on the results of the year as a whole and the prospects for the coming year.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to last March dropped from £1.49m to £1.38m, despite a gain of just over £2m to £2.35m in turnover. The directors reckon that but for delays in the granting of price increases, eventually imple-

mented in December, pre-tax profits would have been roughly double the total achieved.

As it is, the straight forward pre-tax figure, at the half-way stage, takes no account of stock profits. These are estimated to be running at an annual £1m, in line with last year's experience.

The group does not normally take stock profits into account until the end of the year. At the moment the prices of some of the group's raw materials are falling; but the management reckons to have taken this into account in making its estimates.

SKF claim 38 pc of Shef Twist

The tussle for control of Sheffield Twist Drill & Steel is still in the balance. The Swedish group SKF now claims a holding of 38.1 per cent of the equity, having received acceptance for 1.39m Sheffield shares (or 21.5 per cent) following its £10.5m offer. This is now extended until Thursday.

Its terms of 77p a share have been beaten by Thorn Electrical Industries' counter-offer of 85p a share. This puts a price of about £14.5m on Sheffield.

SKF now claims a holding of 38.1 per cent of the equity. So SKF will probably need to raise its offer to more than that of Thorn to clinch success. Hill Samuel is acting for SKF and Hambros Bank for Thorn.

Woodhead has record year after good second half

Thanks to growth holding up in the second half, Jonas Woodhead & Sons, the Leeds textile suspension specialist has fulfilled its promise that last year's record pre-tax profit of £2.34m would be beaten. Profits for the year to March 31 jumped 26 per cent to £2.95m, turnover up from £25.3m to £32.5m.

The second six months profits went up by 25 per cent to £1.68m, after a 2 per cent advance to £1.26m in the first half.

The year's total included a smaller contribution from associated companies of £93,000, against £217,000, reflecting a reduced holding in the shares of Amalgamated Springs & Suspensions of Australia.

From a distributable profits of £2.18m to £1.37m, the board is raising the gross dividend from 7.7p to 8.67p.

## Thos Ward do well and outlook fair

By Peter Wainwright

Thos W. Ward, the big cement, iron and steel engineering group has started the present financial year well, but margins are under pressure. In the first six months to last March sales rose by 41 per cent to £94.5m but pre-tax profits went ahead by less than 6 per cent to £4.18m.

The rise in sales reflected both price inflation and a large volume gain. But the latest figures compare with a half year that included three day working.

Ward has found financing expansion costly. Loan interest charges rose from £1m to £1.28m as the group invested heavily in new working capital

and development. Depreciation also rose sharply while the group's share of profits from associated companies fell from £1.2m to £703,000. The group has big holdings in Tunnel Cement and Ribblesdale Cement.

Chairman Mr Douglas Walton reports that the figures from the iron and steel division illustrated a continuing strong demand.

The Construction division, including the cement, quarrying and road surfacing interests was hurt by the cur in public spending. Engineering division figures were encouraging but Marshall-Fowler still has problems and the future of this company, "is a matter of grave concern".

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Highams' recession

The pre-tax profits for textile manufacturer Highams, slipped

Brokers' views

City support for British membership of the EEC remained unshaken throughout the referendum campaign and has received fresh expression since the outcome of the voting. A letter to clients from the City of London, dated June 11, says that the City's views are unchanged.

On this basis it regards Sun Alliance and Guardian Royal as the most attractive shares. Commercial Union, Royal, Eagle Star, look dear. General Accident is also technically cheap, but Eagle Star is regarded as too dependent upon the UK.

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SKF claim 38 pc of Shef Twist

The tussle for control of Sheffield Twist Drill & Steel is still in the balance. The Swedish group SKF now claims a holding of 38.1 per cent of the equity, having received acceptance for 1.39m Sheffield shares (or 21.5 per cent) following its £10.5m offer. This is now extended until Thursday.

Its terms of 77p a share have been beaten by Thorn Electrical Industries' counter-offer of 85p a share. This puts a price of about £14.5m on Sheffield.

SKF now claims a holding of 38.1 per cent of the equity. So SKF will probably need to raise its offer to more than that of Thorn to clinch success. Hill Samuel is acting for SKF and Hambros Bank for Thorn.

Woodhead has record year after good second half

Thanks to growth holding up in the second half, Jonas Woodhead & Sons, the Leeds textile suspension specialist has fulfilled its promise that last year's record pre-tax profit of £2.34m would be beaten. Profits for the year to March 31 jumped 26 per cent to £2.95m, turnover up from £25.3m to £32.5m.

The second six months profits went up by 25 per cent to £1.68m, after a 2 per cent advance to £1.26m in the first half.

The year's total included a smaller contribution from associated companies of £93,000, against £217,000, reflecting a reduced holding in the shares of Amalgamated Springs & Suspensions of Australia.

From a distributable profits of £2.18m to £1.37m, the board is raising the gross dividend from 7.7p to 8.67p.

Highams' recession

The pre-tax profits for textile manufacturer Highams, slipped

Brokers' views

City support for British membership of the EEC remained unshaken throughout the referendum campaign and has received fresh expression since the outcome of the voting. A letter to clients from the City of London, dated June 11, says that the City's views are unchanged.

On this basis it regards Sun Alliance and Guardian Royal as the most attractive shares. Commercial Union, Royal, Eagle Star, look dear. General Accident is also technically cheap, but Eagle Star is regarded as too dependent upon the UK.

## Stock markets Shares rise sharply in late trading

The United Kingdom trade figures for May, proving far better than the most deftly estimated, provided a welcome boost for both gilts and equities in late dealings yesterday. The equity market account ended firmly.

Earlier, both sections had been looking steadier as sterling tried to rally behind Mr Healey's assurance that inflation would be resisted firmly. Disclosure, in the form of the latest Retail Price Index, of a 25 per cent inflation rate in the United Kingdom merely confirmed the worst market fears.

The Construction division, including the cement, quarrying and road surfacing interests was hurt by the cur in public spending. Engineering division figures were encouraging but Marshall-Fowler still has problems and the future of this company, "is a matter of grave concern".

Market indices, having trod water all day, rose sharply in after hours' dealings, when jobbers marked shares up in the face of the rush to commence buying in the new account. The FT index ended at 340.6, a net 5.9 upon the day—having been almost unchanged at 330 pm as the market awaited the trade figures.

Short dated gilts opened strongly, helped by the initial rally in the pound, only to falter again. But gilts began to rise again just before the trade figures announcement, and pushed further ahead after the statement. Closing gains in shorts ranged from 4 to 2 of a point. In longs, there were net rises of 1 to 1 of a point.

The latest favourite of the N Sea speculators is Ball & Collins (Oil & Gas) which jumped to 170p compared with 115p at the beginning of the week.

Turnover in equities remained relatively thin. The day's recorded bargains totalled 6,334. During the day, shares began to edge forward as bear sellers came in for stock ahead of the end of the trading account.

The trade figures news brought a mark-up of several pence in the leaders, with the overseas earners once more to the fore. ICI, 4p up at 291p, Bats 10p up at 332p and Unilever 6p up at 390p were prominent in the list of rises to move up.

Glaxo (435p) also staged a minor recovery from the persistent fall of the past week—which has cut the share price from 000p since the announcement of a rights issue plan. EMI (177p) was another to pick it-

self off the floor as the market took the view that the fall of the past week had been over-

Pilkington Brothers turned in trading results no better than the market had been expecting for the past week. But the shares had been improving ahead of the news—helped as in so many other cases by bear closing on the part of those who have been selling all week. Having reached 183p ahead of the announcement of results, shares in Pilkington then moved up to close at 190p—a net 13p higher on the day.

Babcock & Wilcox provided another firm feature of the engine engineering pitch, after a repetition of previous bullish press comment. But Tube Investments (260p) remained uneasy, with the market unsure whether the selling of the past week has yet come to its end.

Chloride Group (at 105p) recovered some of the ground lost over the past week. Another good spot was Sheffield Steel at 88p, with the market convinced that the battle between Thorn Electric and SKF is still only in its early stages. Imperial Continental Gas and Rascal Electrical were both with trading statements now in view.

Shares in LRC International, the drugs and contraceptive group, held at their peak price of 30p in spite of a denial by Gillette of rumours—reported here yesterday that the United States giant is interested in bidding.

Among Far Eastern issues, Inchcape moved up but Guthrie Corporation were easier after reporting a slowdown in the group's growth record. Another dull spot among the heavies was British & Commonwealth, which is to exchange Telegraph were Shell, Barclays BK, Beecham, Bats, EMI, Sun Alliance new, Babcock & Wilcox, Guss "A", Tubes and Unilever.

Latest dividends

All dividends in new pence or appropriate currencies

Company Name Dividend Date Year's total Prev total

Alpine Ridge Fin Nil 4.32 1/8 7.61 7.01

Arbuthnot Latham (21) Fin 4.91 4.32 1/8 7.61 7.01

Barror Group (25p) Int 1.5 1.5 — 2.01 2.04

Goldring, Fowdard (25p) Int 1.34 1.34 — 2.01 2.04

Grand Metro (50p) Int 1.4 1.4 — 2.24 2.24

Gratified Propp (50p) Int 1.21 1.25 — 1.38 1.38

Marinevale Cons (880) Int 27.5 34.7 — 94.5 94.5

Pilkington Bros (11) Fin 4.35 3.87 18/9 8.71 7.93

Thos W. Ward (25p) Int 1.21 1.25 — 2.24 2.24

Jonas Woodhead (25p) Fin 3.53 3.49 5/8 5.69 5.69

of the firmer sectors of the market. Clearing bank shares were helped by a Government assurance that there are no plans to nationalise one of their number. Among the merchant banks, Hambros moved up again as the market breathed a sigh of relief at the assurance in the trading report that there are no losses on tanker finance.

Insurance shares looked firmer in late dealings, but properties remained subdued in the wake of recently bullish comments to clients from several stockbroking firms. The most nervous feature on this pitch was Land Securities, due to report on Tuesday next.

Oil shares had another quiet session, with the exception of the N Sea issues, which continued to find ready support.

Thomson Organisation did well, and late dealing brought renewed interest in Beary Wiggins. But BP (517p) and Shell (317p) traded quietly yesterday, although both joined in the late upturn in the market.

This week's rise in shares in the diamond group, De Beers Consolidated, brought out the profit takers yesterday. Gold shares, on the other hand, could attract little interest, either from the bulls or the bears.

With US interest also thin, most gold producers remained around their overnight levels. Equity turnover for June 12 was £77.7m (18,460 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph were Shell, Barclays BK, Beecham, Bats, EMI, Sun Alliance new, Babcock & Wilcox, Guss "A", Tubes and Unilever.

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## aduated discrimination...

are graduated pension ceased to exist on and no further gratification rights are being earned. This attracted some criticism the new state will not come into until 1977 or 1978, and it will therefore have or three years' pen- nents which could other- be earned.

easy to overstate the ce of this loss. The amount of pension on very large; the most approached k by 1978. In any case



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## Stock Exchange Prices

## Firm close to the account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday, Dealing End, June 27. Contango Day, June 30. Settlement Day, July 8.  
 § Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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will be trying to get through to the scruff of the women's Pye Cup — a day which could mean testing for the 1 comes 24 hours after Women's AAA championship at Crystal Palace. The women's and men's Championships will be held at Palace on September

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